FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JULY 1984

Israel

At the conclusion of the Knesset elections, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir renewed his call for a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported. He said that such a move would respond to the people's desire for unity but disclosed, however, that some parties, whose support would constitute a Knesset majority, have already agreed in principle to join a Likud-led coalition government. He expressed the hope that he will be able to form a government within a few days. A Morasha Party spokesman cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* said that the chances of establishing a national unity government do not appear to be very good and that his party favors joining a Likud coalition, while not ruling out participation with the Alignment. The paper also reported that Yahad leader 'Ezer Weizman expressed his support for the establishment of a national unity government, even if his party were not included. He added that he will not support either of the two major blocs in their bid to form a coalition because the nation must unite. Meanwhile, the paper reported that an official of the Mapam faction of the Alignment stressed his group's "complete opposition" to the idea of a national unity government, even with the Alignment at its head.

Responding to early election results, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that he will attempt to establish a "broad-based government, according to an agreed-upon plan" and that coalition contacts have already been made, Jerusalem radio reported. National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg is scheduled to meet with Shamir on 24 July and has already been contacted by Alignment leaders in connection with coalition discussions, the radio added. Burg has suggested the establishment of a bloc with the other religious parties, an idea that received positive responses from those parties, Morasha, Agudat Yisra'el, and Shas.

Lebanon

Following recent clashes in the hills south of Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio announced that the Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) have agreed to fully abide by the cease-fire in the mountain area and to withdraw from newly established "conspicuous" positions. Earlier, Prime Minister Rashid Karami told Beirut radio that he hopes the security plan will be implemented in the mountain area this week. As for the return of Christian refugees to their homes in the Ash-Shuf mountains, Government Minister Camille Sham'un disclosed that he has reached an understanding with PSP leader Walid Junblatt regarding the return of all the evacuees, the Voice of Lebanon reported.

In the northern city of Tripoli, renewed clashes between rival factions ended after the northern coordination committee secured a cease-fire agreement, Beirut radio noted. The Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP), which was recently involved in clashes with Sulayman Franjiyah's militia south of Tripoli, has elected a new leader, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. 'Isam al-Mahayiri, who replaces In'am Ra'd, is the first Syrian national to lead the party and his election reflects Syria's intention to enable Muslims to outnumber Christians in the SSNP, according to informed sources cited by the radio.

Western Sahara

Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala received Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who delivered a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Nouakchott radio reported. According to Algiers radio, this visit is related to the situation created by Morocco, which has accused Mauritania of being a base for Polisario fighters. Morocco is using recent Polisario attacks as a pretext to expand the conflict, the radio added. Meanwhile, the Moroccan paper *L'OPINION*, cited by MAP, responded to the "frivolous" aspects of the contention by APS that Morocco's warning to Mauritania was a "maneuver" designed to "deceive" public opinion. Morocco could have pursued the Polisario "mercenaries" or could have launched preemptive strikes, the paper noted, and the Moroccan press has often pointed out the existence of "mercenaries" on Mauritanian territory, a fact confirmed by Mauritanian opposition figures.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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AL-ANBA' Interviews PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

GF231526 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Jul 84 p 15

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by *AL-ANBA'* correspondent Muhammad al-Majali — place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Muhammad al-Majali] When will you visit Egypt again for the second time?

['Arafat] I would like to visit Egypt as soon as possible and as soon as the Palestinian, Arab, and Palestinian-Egyptian circumstances permit.

I shall visit Egypt and I have not broken off our relations. Our relations with Mubarak have not been broken for even one minute.

[Al-Majali] Could you give us an idea about the joint future steps which you have discussed with King Husayn?

['Arafat] We agreed from the very beginning on a unified action and joint policy to confront what is taking place against our people in the occupied territories on the political and economic levels and to confront the official and organized Zionist terror against our people, which is supervised by official characters in the Israeli Government and Army, as well as to confront the attempt to Judaize Islamic and Christian places. In fact, the Judaization of Islamic places has already begun.

There is currently a complete plan regarding Islamic and Christian places in Jerusalem and Palestine as well, confronting all the plans which might challenge the Arab nation, and we are coordinating our steps on Arab and international levels.

There is joint coordination and there are joint steps to confront all the current developments and incidents in the region.

[Al-Majali] What about the Syrian-Palestinian talks?

['Arafat] The visit which was made by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] was successful.

[Al-Majali] What is your comment on the Syrian decision not allowing you to enter Damascus?

['Arafat] No comment. No one can prevent me from entering Damascus. No one can prevent Yasir 'Arafat from entering Damascus.

[Al-Majali] How do you evaluate Iranian-Palestinian relations?

['Arafat] As a mediator, there are continued relations with our Iranian brothers. There have been messages exchanged between us. They have publicized one of the messages which I sent to the Iranian leadership.

At the same time, we are trying to convince them that this war is against Iran, Iraq, the Arabs, the Muslims, and the oppressed, which are called the nonaligned countries.

JORDAN TIMES Interviews PLO's Hani al-Hasan

JN230838 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 84 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are drawing closer to the formulation of a framework for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, a senior PLO official said Sunday. Hani al-Hasan, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and member of the Central Committee of Fatah the mainstream commando movement under the PLO umbrella, told the *JORDAN TIMES* in an interview in Amman that the "political views of Jordan and the PLO are now closer than ever," and that both are "nearing the formulation of a framework for confederal ties." Mr. al-Hasan did not elaborte on the basis for the projected Jordanian-Palestinian confederal ties other than saying that an agreement reached last month between five major factions of the PLO in Aden "has laid a clearer basis for Jordanian-Palestinian relations."

The Aden agreement, reached between Fatah on the one hand and a four-faction "Democratic Alliance" on the other, stipulates that relations between Jordan and the PLO should be based on resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, which call for "confederal ties between Jordan and a future independent Palestinian state."

The agreement also rejects all American-sponsored proposals for the Middle East, including President Ronald Reagan's September 1980 initiative which calls for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank in association with Jordan and "any plan that excludes the PLO or denies the Palestinians the right to self-determination and the right to statehood." The Aden agreement also pledged not to mandate any party to take part in any Middle East peace negotiations on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Mr. al-Hasan said "it was only natural for Jordanian-Palestinian relations to pass through periods of stalemate, because when we started (the Jordan-PLO dialogue) two years ago we had different perspectives. Now our views are closer than ever before."

The Fatah official, who is considered one of the key Palestinian figures who play an important role in the ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, said that one of the main points of differences between the PLO and Jordan was "different understanding of Jordanian-Palestinian unity."

"In the beginning there was no common and identical understanding of Jordanian-Palestinian unity and whether it was a unity between two equal parties or whether it implied that one side belongs to the other," Mr. al-Hasan said, but now, according to Mr. al-Hasan, "both sides are nearing a joint, common understanding of the relation."

In the Fatah official's view, Jordan, over the past two years, has shown a change in its political out-look. "In the beginning Jordan was open to the U.S., but now it is opening up to Europe and the socialist countries," he said. The PLO views "with satisfaction" Jordan's "changed outlook" because "it means that we are approaching a common political platform," he said.

The PLO, Mr. al-Hasan said, has reached a decision that its relations with Jordan should "reach a final stage of understanding beyond which there is no separation."

"We strive to make the Jordanian-Palestinian relations a cornerstone in the Arab strategy that cannot be dismissed or ignored," he said.

Mr. al-Hasan, however, stressed that the strengthening of Jordanian-Palestinian relations is not aimed at forming an axis in the region. "We are aiming to reach a joint political approach which should get the backing of the Arab world, including Syria," he said.

The Palestinian official revealed that the last round of the ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue — during the visit of Mr. 'Arafat to Amman last week — vital issues such as possibilities for a Syrian-Jordanian and a Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement were discussed and that both Jordan and the PLO welcomed such developments. "Neither the PLO nor Jordan has any sensitivity towards a reconciliation of either with Syria," he said.

"On the contary, a Syrian-Jordanian reconciliation or a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation will contribute greatly to settling Arab differences and unifying the Arab stance — a goal which we are all aiming at," he said.

In this context, Mr. al-Hasan announced that the head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, is expected to return to Damascus by next week. He also said that Mr. Qaddumi has told Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that the Fatah leadership is ready to discuss and debate any point which the Syrian Government would like to raise concerning bilateral relations or the situation in the Middle East.

Another senior Palestinian official, who asked not to be named, told the *JORDAN TIMES* last week that the Syrians have told Mr. Qaddumi that Mr. 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO was an internal Palestinian issue, although "they have their own reservations and opinion about Mr. 'Arafat."

The official also disclosed that the Syrians have informed Mr. Qaddumi of "their support for the Aden agreement." The Aden agreement, however, has been rejected by a few Syrian-backed Palestinian factions, but the official said that "the pro-Syrian factions' position is contingent on future reconciliation between Syria and Fatah."

Mr. al-Hasan said Monday that a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue is going to take place in Algiers by the end of the month and will tackle most of these issues.

Libyan 'Contacts' Aim To Relax Tensions

LD231826 Kuwait KUNA in English 1443 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Tunis, July 23 (KUNA) — Contacts are under way between Palestinian and Libyan leaderships through Arab and friendly quarters with the aim of relaxing their tense relations, a press report published here Monday said. *AL-MAWQEF* weekly magazine said the contacts are being held within the framework of present Libyan efforts aimed at rapprochement with Arab countries. Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sent envoys for most Arab leaders over the past two weeks calling for unity of ranks.

AL-KHALIJ Reports Differences Among Factions

GF211502 ASH-SHARIQAH AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 21 Jul 84 P 1, 11

[Text] One of the opposition leaders in Fatah has opined that the implementation of the Aden agreement announced last week and signed by four Palestinian organizations and Fatah will be postponed. Colonal Ziyad as-Saghir, alias Abu Hazim, said that there is a general feeling to postpone the implementation of the agreement, because to put the agreement into effect without reaching a comprehensive national agreement will make it a (split agreement) [itifaqan inqisamiyan]

In a telephone conversation with *AL-KHALIJ*, Abu Hazim said that the dialogue between the National and the Democratic Alliances has progressed during the previous session which was convened yesterday. He affirmed that there are a lot of points of agreement between the two alliances and the dialogue is now concentrated on three points of difference.

The first one is the stand toward Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman. Abu Hazim said that the two alliances agreed to confront Yasir 'Arafat, but the Democratic Alliance believes that the confrontation is possible only inside the legitimate institutions. We — the National Alliance — view that confrontation is possible everywhere. We view that 'Arafat's attendance at the PNC will renew its legitimacy and will give it a new chance to become involved in the U.S. settlement project.

Abu Hazim said that the second point of difference is the stand toward the Fatah Central Committee, since the Democratic Alliance does not observe any reservations on the current stand of the committee, although it used to consider it as an extension of 'Arafat.

The third point of difference is the convening of the PNC.

He said that the stand of the opposition toward dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee is based on two conditions. The first one is to oust Yasir 'Arafat and to announce a clear stand toward his visit to Cairo. The second one is that it should adhere to the document of the 18-man committee which stemmed from the Central Council and has announced the necessity of establishing an emergency command between the [uprising] and Fatah center.

Concerning the PNC, the opposition feels that it must be convened after reaching a comprehensive national agreement among all the factions on the basis of the PLO Charter.

About the meeting of the National Alliance leaders with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a week ago, Abu Hazim said that the meeting was positive and through it we managed to confirm the solidness of the Syrian stand toward the Palestinian issue. He said: "The meeting has put an end to rumors about the meeting

of President al-Asad and Faruq Qaddumi 2 weeks ago. We have learned that Qaddumi said that there is no objection to Fatah if it will correct its stand toward 'Arafat's policy and therefore it can present itself in the arena of Palestinian action in Syria."

Abu Hazim said that the delegation has discussed with President al-Asad the issue of supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Lebanon on all security, economic, and social levels.

About reports of differences inside the opposition movement, Abu Hazim said: "What has been rumored is extremely exaggerated. The issue does not exceed some differences on the means of constructing Fatah without repeating the previous experience." He continued: "We are correcting our faults without fearing rumors on the existence of differences, because we are seeking a true substitute which will inspire the capabilities of our people."

About the correctness of the news of differences between opposition leadership and Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], one of the leadership members, Abu Hazim said: "Abu Salih is in Damascus at the present, but he will leave for treatment abroad soon, and this may take 2 or 3 months."

PFLP Leader on 'Arafat's Statements in Amman

GF231504 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Jul 84 p 1

[Sattar Jabbar report]

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has said that the statements made by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman recently represent a violation of the Aden-Algiers Agreement.

In a telephone conversation with *AL-WATAN*, George Habash, who is in Damascus, expressed his regret at these statements which were made at a time when negotiations between the Palestinian factions and the Fatah Central Committee were continuing. He said: We are concentrating on the dialogue with the National Alliance consisting of the Sa'iqah, the General Command, the opposition in Fatah, and the Popular Struggle Front, and our objective through this dialogue is to form a broad front to stand against the deviation in the Palestinian arena.

Habash added: Although we signed the Aden agreement, the deviation is still continuing. Hence, we want to unify all the Palestinian resistance factions to stand firmly against this deviation. The PFLP secretary general said that the dialogue with the National Alliance is also aimed at discussing the PLO issue and principles, on basis of which the PNC will be held.

Asked if he means that the dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee will stop bowing to 'Arafat's statements, Habash said: We will ask the Central Committee about 'Arafat's new violation of the agreement which was initialled in Aden, and we will seek a clear answer on this violation from it and in light of the Central Committee's answer, many things will be decided.

Dr Habash answered a question on the Iranian-Iraqi war by saying: Many efforts were exerted to stop this war and we in the PFLP believe that it is necessary to put an end to this war. However, the mediation efforts we made were not effective due to many reasons.

Regarding his expectations with regard to the Palestinian developments in the coming stage, the PFLP secretary general said: First of all, we are trying, despite all the problems witnessed by the Palestinian arena, to prepare everyone for our fighting against the Zionist enemy. Therefore, we are continuously urging ourselves and all the Palestinian organizations to continue the armed struggle so that the enemy does not live in peace at any time. He went on: However, this is not enough. It is necessary to unite the PLO as a whole so that it can be restored to its position of an effective political force against the imperialist and Zionist designs which are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue.

Voice of PLO on Syrian Campaign Against 'Arafat

JN221914 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1637 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Palestinian Aden agreement which was recently signed in Algiers by the parties to the Palestinian national dialogue has won the support of our people everywhere. Our masses have called for the need to safeguard and develop this agreement in order to build a solid foundation of Palestinian national unity and to strengthen our revolution's and our people's march of liberation toward their great objectives. This agreement, particularly our masses' support and welcome for this agreement, has raised the rancor of those forces that dream of controlling and containing the independent Palestinian decision-making and of destroying the revolutionary Palestinian legitimacy. This gives this agreement extraordinary importance and increases the urgency that we adhere to it.

However, what is taking place now? Specifically, what is taking place in Damascus? Syrian media have renewed their attacks on the PLO, its leadership, and its political action. This means that the Syrian regime still insists on maintaining its differences with the PLO. Why is there this insistence after the Aden agreement? Why does the Syrian regime escalate its differences with the PLO whenever there is a possibility of restoring Palestinian unity and stopping propaganda on basic and deep differences in the Palestinian arena, especially since the Aden agreement constitutes the possibility and the sign for this?

Does this escalation have any meaning other than pressuring those Palestinian factions that signed the agreement, particularly the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in order to force them to renege on the agreement? Is it aimed at forcing the Palestinian factions to return to the same whirlpool of discussing imaginary differences?

This makes us believe that this campaign aimed at pressuring these factions is not revolving in a vicious circle. This means that there is a response to this pressure — a response that seeks to delude and maneuver in a vain effort to conceal its objectives.

The current Syrian media campaign against the PLO and its leadership focuses on brother leader Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Jordan. These factions have issued a statement criticizing brother leader Abu 'Ammar's recent statements at the news conference in Amman. They considered those statements a violation of the PNC resolutions and the Aden agreement articles. What does this coincidence mean? We do not want to ask how brother leader Abu 'Ammar's statements violate the PNC resolutions and the Aden agreement, or exactly where this violation is. Such a question will have no answer, because there is no such violation. However, the question to which we want an answer, considering that there is an answer to it, is: On what basis did these factions decide whether or not there was a violation of the PNC resolutions?

We do not want to open old records and recall Tripoli and its battle in order to talk about the real and objective basis that determines a violation of the PNC resolutions. We would like to say that details are not major points, and the coincidence of accusations against the PLO and its leadership with the attempts made by the forces that were not satisfied with the Aden agreement raises very serious questions that must be answered before casting doubts on a commitment to the PNC resolutions and the Aden agreement. We mean the credibility of those factions in Damascus which have signed the agreement.

This objective talk must not raise anyone's concern, because we seek to explain matters and put them on the correct course. What is the meaning of responding to the requirements of the Syrian media campaign against the PLO and its historic leadership? The matter is not related to a political question, but to the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. The Syrian regime, which attacks the PLO's leadership because of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, does not want the PLO to entrench its relations with Jordan except through this regime. This means that this regime still seeks to impose hegemony over the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Moreover, it does not want the Palestinian will to express itself in its own manner. Why does the Syrian regime continue this policy? Does the Syrian regime allow us to interfere in its Arab and international relations? Does it allow us to use it as a card? The matter is related not only to specific logical and political standards, but to specific links — or at least to [words indistinct].

Palestinian Front Holds Rally at Al-Yarmuk

JN210652 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSf held a rally at the Palestinian Arab Club in Al-Yarmuk Camp last nigh on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the founding of the PPSF.

The rally was attended by Comrade Muhammad Zaydan, member of the Ba'th Party Central Committee and vice president of the professional unions regional bureau; Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker; Dr Samir Ghawshah, PPSF secretary general; a number of the Palestinian revolution groups' secretaries general; and a number of the Palestinian revolution groups' representatives.

Speeches on the PLO, the Lebanese nationalist movement, and the PPSF were delivered at the rally. The speeches praised the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese alliance that impelled the invasion forces to retreat from Beirut as a prelude their final expulsion from southern Lebanon. The speeches affirmed that holding the PNC session is not an objective; its results and a sound political trend are what are important. They denounced the deviationist course of some of the Palestinian revolution's leaders and affirmed that going to the Camp David Egypt is not an alternative for the steadfastness of struggler Hafiz al-Asad's Syria. The speeches requested that the Palestinian revolution, of which the PPSF constitutes an indivisible part, remain steadfast against all imperialist and Zionist plans until liberation and victory are achieved.

Explosion Damages Israeli Headquarters in Sidon

JN211715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] A group of joint Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist resistance men today detonated a high-explosive charge near the headquarters of the Zionist military governor in Sidon in occupied southern Lebanon. The explosion resulted in heavy damage to the headquarters of the Zionist military governor. The explosion also killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation, and, as usual, he declined to admit losses. He added that his forces cordoned off the area, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a number of Lebanese and Palestinian citizens on the pretext of searching for the resistance men, who returned safely to base.

San'a' VOP Reports on Operation in Gaza Strip

GF231759 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Palestinian commandos operating inside our occupied territories launched an attack today with hand grenades and machine guns near the Palestinian camp of Jabaliyah in the occupied Gaza Strip. The Zionist enemy's radio claimed that the attack did not result in any losses of lives and equipment. Following the attack, the enemy troops forces combed and surrounded the area looking for the Palestinian commandos who managed to return to their bases safely.

Palestinian Mayors View Israeli Elections

PM240741 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Jul 84 pp 36,37

[Interview with Palestinian Mayors Muhammad Milhim and Fahd al-Qawasimah by 'Adnan Nasrawin in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] Muhammad Milhim and Fahd al-Qawasimah, expelled mayors of Halhul and Hebron respectively, are best qualified to talk about the potential effect of the outcome of the Israeli parliamentary elections on the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the peace efforts in the area. They both held responsible leadership positions under the Israeli military occu-

pation during the rule of the Labor Party and the Likud Party in the West Bank from 1967 until 1978, when they were expelled by the ruling Likud Party. For this reason *AL-HAWADITH* interviewed them in order to discuss this matter from its various aspects. The interview took place in Amman.

AL-HAWADITH: What in your view are the immediate effects of the Israeli elections on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and do you expect any change in the Israeli method of dealing with the Palestinians in the event that the Labor Party under Shimon Peres' leadership comes to power?

Fahd al-Qawasimah: Just as the Israeli elections are important for the Israeli people, they are important for the area, for Arab issues, and for the Palestinian people. Perhaps some people say that there is no difference between the major parties competing for power in Israel, namely the Labor Party and the Likud Party, as far as our problems are concerned. But I believe that there is some kind of difference between the two parties. The Labor Party intends to halt Israeli settlement in the heavily populated Palestinian towns, and in its political program it hints that it intends to come forward with a new Israeli policy toward the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. Also, if the Labor Party comes into office there is the possibility of the forces supporting peace emerging stronger than they have been under the extremist Likud Government during the past 8 years.

It is for this reason that we are looking forward to the outcome of the Israeli elections. It is not because we are expecting radical changes in the Israeli view of the Palestinian problem, but because we would like to know how the Israeli citizen thinks through his decision to bring to power those he wants to be in power. If moderate Israelis come to power, then this would be a positive signal. But if the Likud government is returned to power with its clearly expansionist and aggressive program, it means that the majority of the Israelis reject any initiative, however insignificant, toward understanding the Palestinian problem and dealing with the Palestinians.

Some of the Palestinians do not see any difference between the Labor Party and the Likud Party. Both parties up to this moment deny the Palestinian people their right to self-determination, refuse total withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and reject the role of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, from this aspect there is no difference between Labor and the Likud. I personally, in the light of my dealing with both parties during the time I was mayor of Hebron, believe that there are some differences between the two parties, although these differences may not please me. We have heard the Labor Party leaders saying that they are willing to withdraw from some of the occupied Arab territories, while the Likud Party leaders keep reiterating that this is a Jewish land and that there will be no withdrawal from a single inch of it. The Labor Party calls for some kind of negotiations with the Palestinians and the Arabs, while the Likud rejects any idea of this kind. However, despite this belief of mine I do not wish to pin great hopes on the Labor Party. However, in light of the deteriorating Arab and Palestinian situation, we should encourage any political power as long as it is better for us than the other, little though it may be.

Muhammad Milhim: There is no doubt that whatever happens in Israel, whether positive or negative, should be of interest to the Palestinians and the Arabs, because our basic problem is with that entity, with both its hawks and doves, with right and left. Events as important as the Israeli elections should not pass without our evaluating them and their results and knowing the potential effects of their results, in order to adopt Palestinian stands to deal with such developments which directly affect our problem.

With regard to the question about the differences between Labor and Likud, statements have been made — as Mr Fahd al-Qawasimah said — by the Labor Party leaders which might indicate to the Arab citizen that if that party comes to power it will take some political initiative to help set the peace process in motion. I say this despite the fact that after 1967 I endured, with our Palestinian people in the occupied territories, a discouraging experience with the Labor Party. But maybe the party's political program has now developed. I believe that if it comes to power it will put forward an intiative that will combine the Camp David agreement and President Reagan's initiative and that it will adopt the policy of putting into effect the principles of autonomy in the occupied Arab territories, but not in the "Beginist" method. Rather, it will be a different method, outwardly attractive but inwardly harsh and tough. If our people in the occupied territories, in view of the economic deterioration and the increasing acts of terror and repression by the Likud Party, found hope in the Labor Party's coming to power, then they would welcome it, particularly in the present circumstances of Palestinian and Arab divisions and rifts. It is we who are suffering, while others look on. But despite our optimism over the Labor Party political program, the obstacles to peace for the Palestinians will continue with the Labor Party, which still rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and recognition of the PLO. It also refuses to go back on the annexation of Arab Jerusalem to Israel. The risks involved in the Labor Party's coming to power also include further disruption of the Palestinian ranks because, if Peres comes to office in Israel, the objective of certain political initiatives he will put forward will be not to achieve a political solution but to create new conflicts among the Palestinians and the Arabs and divide them into those accepting and those rejecting.

AL-HAWADITH: [Nabulus Mayor] Bassam ash-Shak'ah said recently in a statement to French television that there is absolutely no difference between the Labor Party and the Likud as far as the Palestinians are concerned, while Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told the same program that he personally wishes good luck to the Labor Party, with which it is possible to come to an understanding. Do you believe that the Israeli elections and their results will create some kind of division between the mayors of the occupied territories, splitting them into those supporting and others opposing the Labor Party?

Muhammad Milhim: First, it must be said that no mayor in the occupied Arab territories supports or opposes the Israeli Labor Party, because the mayors are not Israelis. I believe that Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Ilyas Frayj, whom you quoted in your question, are well aware of our bitter experience with the Labor Party. But it is Frayj's method to try to appear optimistic, even in the present circumstances of bitter Arab reality, while Bassam ash-Shak'ah

constantly complains of the bitterness of Israeli occupation both under the Labor Party and the Likud. I believe that there is no difference in the two men's statements, because both realize that the Labor Party and the Likud reject the Palestinian people's just demands.

AL-HAWADITH: The Israeli elections committee originally banned the "Democratic List," consisting of Israelis and Arabs, [as published], from taking part in the elections, but later the High Court approved the list's entry into the elections. What is in your opinion the impact of the Israeli decision to ban this list and how politically influential in Israel are its members?

Fahd al-Qawasimah: In fact the "Democratic List" constitutes a major problem for Israel in view of the fact that it includes Arabs and Israelis [as published] demanding Palestinian-Israeli coexistence within a framework of justice and equity. The Israeli extremists are fighting against this list, which advocates a secular society in which Palestinian Christians, Muslims, and Jews live side by side and enjoy the same rights. This is rejected by the Zionist dogma which says that Palestine is only for the Jews.

Muhammad Milhim: If we look at the names making up the list, we will realize its importance. it includes Israeli personalities from the Peace Now movement and Palestinian personalities that have played a major role in preventing the loss of Palestinian lands. We recognize the courage of the Israeli personalities participating in this democratic List, such as General Peled, who demands that the Palestinian flag be raised over a Palestinian state side by side with the State of Israel.

In fact I can say that even some Arabs have not shown the degree of enthusiasm that General Peled and his group have shown over the Palestinian problem. But there are certain Palestinians, even inside the PLO, who are trying to outbid Peled and the Palestinians working with him to support our cause in Israel itself.

In my view the Democratic List is an encouraging phenomenon: It shows that there are Israelis and Palestinians who believe that Palestinian-Israeli coexistence is possible. It is an effective political phenomenon that counters the blind fanaticism on both sides and can be regarded as the way to a just and comprehensive peace through future mutual recognition if it can establish itself. One must ask here: Why did the Israeli elections committee ban the list, consisting of Israelis and Palestinians, and equate them with the Zionist terrorist Kahane, despite the great difference between the views and attitudes of the two parties. The persons represented in the Democratic List are not advocating throwing Israel into the sea. Rather, the elections committee decided to ban it because it constitutes a serious threat to Zionist dogma and is spreading like wildfire in the body of Israeli society. If that fire spreads, then in the future there will be a Palestinian state side by side with an Israeli state. There are Palestinian circles, even inside the PLO, that admit that this Democratic List has a basic role in realizing Palestinian rights.

AL-HAWADITH: There is another list in the Israeli elections that is of interest to the Palestinians and the Arabs. This is the list of former Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. You both know the man well because it was he who expelled you from the municipalities of Hebron and Halhul. What is in your opinion the effect of this list on Israel's Arab and Palestinian policy?

Fahd al-Qawasimah: Despite the fact that it was Weizman who expelled me from my country, I must admit that the man has adopted many positive stands. When he was defense minister he rejected some of Begin's terrorist and repressive measures in the occupied territories and resigned in protest against Begin's intransigence and extremism.

I believe that the presence of a man like Weizman in a future government coalition would positively encourage the elements of peace inside Israel.

GULF AFFAIRS

Kuwaiti Sources Deny GCC Delegation To Visit Tehran

GF231318 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 23 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Well informed Kuwaiti sources denied yesterday's news on plans to send a high-level GCC delegation to Tehran to discuss the means of putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war. The sources said that this subject has not been discussed by the GCC countries and there is no specific information on this matter.

Two days ago AP quoted *ARAB NEWS*, published in Jidda, as saying that the GCC countries will send a high-ranking delegation to Tehran to discuss with Iranian officials the possible means of ending the Iraq-Iran war.

BAHRAIN

Briefs

Amir Receives New Ambassadors — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today received the credentials of new New Zealand Ambassador John Emerson and new Indonesian Ambassador Martono Kadri. [Summary] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jul 84 GF]

KUWAIT

Reportage on Visit of Sudanese Delegation

Foreign Minister Receives Delegation

LD231104 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, July 23 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah received here Monday Sudanese Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu and his accompanying delegation. The two sides held talks dealing with bilateral relations and present Arab developments.

Shaykh Sabah's meeting with the Sudanese delegation, including Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman, was attended by Information Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad and acting Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Khalid Muhammad Ja'far and the Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Muhammad 'Abd al-Fatah Babtut. Shaykh Sabah told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that the Sudanese minister briefed him on the latest developments in Sudan in light of implementing the Islamic shari'a.

On the other hand, the Kuwaiti minister welcomed the visiting delegation, expressing Kuwait's appreciation of Sudan's concern with informing Arab countries, including the Gulf Cooperation Council states, on its latest internal developments. He added that Shammu will explain, during a press conference to be held late monday, details of the latest Sudanese measures. Meanwhile, Shaykh Sabah is to hold a lunch banquet in honor of the visitingdelegation which is to be attended by high ranking Kuwaiti officials, the Sudanese ambassador and embassy officials.

Sudan's 'Uthman on Visit

LD240836 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jul (KUNA) — In a press statement published by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* today, visiting Sudanese Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman denied that the Sudanese delegation had brought with it the names of members of the Sudanese opposition for delivery to officials in the Gulf countries. He affirmed that the visit was exploratory and intended to acquaint these officials with recent developments in Sudan. He added: "We are a poor country and do not have huge information capabilities. Hence our decision to embark on this visit to give our brothers in the Gulf a true picture of what is taking place in Sudan, particularly since the Arab information media have, unfortunately, been distorting the facts."

The minister declared: "On my behalf, you can record that I defy any responsible Gulf official to prove that we have delivered any names or have discussed such matters." He added: "All that we want is to make our voice reach our brothers in the Gulf with whom we have good relations."

As to the rumored walk-out of southern deputies from the Sudanese People's Assembly because of the constitutional proposals, the Sudanese foreign minister affirmed that "there is no truth in these rumors at all. All that happened was some of the southern deputies expressed remarks which were taken into consideration and discussed fully."

Speaking of the emergency law, the minister said that "it was imposed when the need arose and will be gradually lifted when security returns."

Regarding the events in Southern Sudan, he said that "some foreign powers such as Ethiopia and Libya have a hand in these events although we do not antagonize anyone."

On his country's relations with Egypt, 'Uthman denied that there was a cool atmosphere prevailing over these relations. He added: "Our relations are more than good and more than natural. We do not wish to embark on appeasing the Arab information media." He also denied that Egypt had advised Sudan to abandon its plan to impose Islamic laws. He said tht Egypt always respects the will of the Sudanese and both Egypt and Sudan are in one trench.

As to the sending of Sudanese forces to help Iraq in the war with Iran, 'Uthman said that Sudan had sent token forces to Iraq "and we are ready to send the entire Army. By our attitude, we wish to affirm our pan-Arab commitment."

Regarding his country's relations with Libya, he said: "We do not wish to antagonize anyone. Our relations are passing through a cool stage which will disappear once Libya stops extending a hand to the rebels in the south."

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM scores U.S. Position on Arms Deal

GF201540 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Jul 84 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The U.S. Worry and Kuwait's Policy"]

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah concluded his visit to the Soviet Union yesterday. Two months ago he paid a similar visit to the United States, where he held talks with the Pentagon. He saw various kinds of weapons, watched a military maneuver and then submitted a list of the weapons Kuwait wanted to purchase to defend its security. The list of the requested weapons was referred to the "institution" of Zionist censorship, where many of these weapons were crossed out on the basis that the security of Kuwait does not require such weapons.

The Soviet Union did not voice any criticism. It neither got upset nor did it issue statements of concern, exaggeration or warnings. Its papers also abstained from criticism and lamentation. By the way, the visit of the defense minister to Moscow was set even before his visit to the United States. So he undertook the visit in accordance with prior arrangements.

The Soviet Union warmly welcomed our minister and said: "Do request." He requested the weapons needed for the defense of our country. They did not equivocate or say: "You are in our strategic interests in the region." The defense minister concluded his visit to the Soviet Union yesterday. He was pleased at the welcome and the understanding he received.

The United States, on the other hand, announced the request for arms as one of the "hazards and the dangers" constituted by Kuwait's aquisition of these weapons from the Soviet Union. Washington even went so far as lamenting our [infringement] on the "balance and neutrality" in our international relations. The Pentagon spokesman announced that the United States "will carefully look into Kuwait's current purchase of Soviet weapons, particularly air defense equipment that may effect our defensive proposals which we are currently discussing with Kuwait."

It is clear that the United States is actually complaining about the Kuwait balance. It wants to be the sole formulator of the framework and methods of the Kuwaiti defense system to make the Kuwaiti balance mere words with no context. The United States is really fearing this Kuwaiti position. The United States assumes that those whom it refers to as moderate Arab countries will not dare deal with the Soviet Union as long as the United States thinks the Soviet Union is the ultimate devil.

We have no doubts that the Soviet Union is competing with the United States, but we in Kuwait are concerned about our national interests first. Wherever we find our interests we will act according to the logic that the superpowers work in accordance with their interests. Whenever our interests coincide with others, we move accordingly. Basically, the fault of the United States is that it did not try to separate or distinguish between what is in its interest and what is in the interests of the others, excerpt for Israel where the incorporation between them is complete and absolute.

But for Kuwait, for example, to have its own view on ways of defending itself and on possession of suitable weapons, "the Kuwaiti boy" has no right to act independently. However, we grew up. We grew up in the sense of the confidence which we have in our ourselves. This implies that we are an independent country and that we have the absolute right in exercising our complete sovereignty and the right for free decision, especially as options are available for us.

Accordingly, Kuwait is keen on confirming that it wants to have developing relations with the United States. Yet it also wants to establish such relations with other countries. If Washington is actually upset with our method then this is its own business. We believe in our method. The matter is a principle for us. It is neither hypocrisy nor a policy in the Western style.

Briefs

Outgoing YAR Envoy — Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah received today YAR Ambassador to Kuwait Dr 'Abd al-Wahab Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid at the end of his term of office. [Summary] [Kuwait *AS-SIYASAH* in Arabic 19 Jul 84 p 2 GF]

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister, Delegation Return From Oman

LD231306 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpt] At-Ta'if, 23 Jul (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense and aviation minister and inspector general, and the accompanying delegation this afternoon arrived in At-Ta'if after a 2-day visit to Oman.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told SPA on his return that his visit to the Sultanate of Oman was an opportune occasion to meet his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

His royal highness said that the visit was an implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. It stemmed from His Majesty's concern to bolster bilateral cooperation and to expand the base of collective cooperation among the GCC countries. His royal highness explained that the good positive results of this visit reached during the visit are a practical translation of the true desire and the definite concern to promote Gulf cooperation and to organize its advancement, for which all are concerned, and its continued progress, and he believes that it is the best way to realize the aspirations of the leaders and the peoples of the region in framing and crystalizing the bonds of fraternity, good-neighborliness and excellent relations among the countries of the council and the best way for fruitful cooperation that would strengthen the security of the region and its stability and spare it the danger of international conflicts.

His royal highness said that the value of the steps taken on the path of Gulf cooperation and coordination is realized in facing the joint challenges facing us. His royal highness pointed out that

the talks between the two sides produced many beneficial positive results, whose outcome, God willing, will soon emerge.

BRIEFS

New Qatari Ambassador — Jidda, July 23, SPA — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal received here today Qatari Ambassador-Designate to Saudi Arabia 'Abdallah Salih al-Mana who delivered a copy of his credentials prior to their submission to His Majesty King Fahd. [Text] [Riyadh SPA in English 1908 GMT 23 Jul 84 LD]

PDRY

Syrian Ba'th Party Delegation Arrives

GF201800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Excerpt] 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived today in Aden leading a party delegation on an official visit to our country lasting several days at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee.

Upon arrival he made a statement to ANA in which he said in part that his visit to the fraternal country of the PDRY comes within the cooperation relations between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the YSP. He pointed out that during this visit discussions will focus on all matters that reinforce and consolidate relations between the two fraternal countries in addition to the issues of common interest, particularly the developments in the Arab arena and whatever pertains to the Palestinians and the situation in Lebanon. Concluding his statement he said:

During the visit, we will become acquainted with the achievements of the fraternal PDRY people, under the leadership of the YSP Socialist Party, via reinforcing the structure of the socialist society, the joint action and the particpation in the national progressive struggle to attain the Arab goals in the confrontation of all the imperialist-Zionist plots antagonistic to our Arab nation.

Syrian Party Talks Begin

GF211912 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] The first round of discussions between the YSP delegation led by Brother Abu Bakr 'Abd ar-Razaq Ba Dhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary general of the Central Committee, and the delegation of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led by Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, began today at the YSP Central Committee Secretariat.

During this round of discussions, Brother Abu Bakr 'Abd ar-Razaq Ba Dhib has affirmed our country's supporting stand toward Syria in confronting various aggressions and conspiracies. He said that Syria has become a base of the Arab vanguard steadfastness in confronting the imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial plots in the region. He lauded its prominent role in aborting the results of Israeli invasion of Lebanon and for achieving the national reconciliation of the Lebanese people so as to impose their sovereignty on their territories, to preserve Lebanon's Arabism and unity and its right for independent democratic development.

Brother Abu Bakr Ba Dhib expressed the importance of the visit of Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar to our country which comes within the framework of consultations, exchange of experiences, discussion of means of strengthening the joint struggle relations for both the Yemeni and the Syrian people, and to develop the role of the two fraternal countries in the Arab liberation struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar referred to the struggle of the Syrian Republic under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in overcoming the individual and objective difficulties confronting it in the process of social development. He said that the great goals of the Syrian people to attain socialism are seen in various achievements and other changes and more loyal and keen efforts are to be exerted so as to achieve socialism. He affirmed that socialism has become the ambition of all the nations striving for progress, prosperity and peace.

Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said that all efforts are to strengthen the Syrian internal steadfastness so as to confront all dangers, internal and foreign, and to confront the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialist threats. He hailed the supporting stand of the Soviet Union toward Syria in various fields and Syria's efforts to develop friendly relations with it.

Reviewing developments in the Arab world, Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar referred to the Syrian role in coordination with the Lebanese national progressive forces in imposing the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon, and abolishment of the 17 May agreement and also its role in achieving national reconciliation among the different Lebanese warring parties.

He also referred to the Syrian role in strengthening Arab steadfastness in confronting the capitulatory solutions in the region Camp David and the Reagan plan. Concerning the developments in the Palestinian arena, he affirmed the Syrian stand toward the just struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their firm and legitimate rights. He reiterated the necessity of preserving Arab solidarity and to mobilize all efforts and powers for the struggle against the main U.S. imperialist enemy and the Zionist enemy.

Referring to the international situation Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said that Syria is supporting all peaceful efforts to abort U.S. imperialist attempts and policies aimed at escalating international tension and undermining the security, stability, and dragging the world to nuclear war. Brother al-Ahmar hailed the developing struggle relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and YSP.

Briefs

Deputy Agriculture Minister Appointed — Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, issued a Council of Ministers' decree appointing Nasir Muhammad 'Amir as the deputy minister of agriculture and agrarian reform. [Text][Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jul 84 GF]

YAR

President Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

GF211748 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with his brother YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night.

Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed his brother the president on the results of the meetings of the Good Offices Committee and the positive results of the Palestinian dialogue held in Algiers recently. The two leaders discussed the Arab situation in light of the latest developments, the escalation of the Zionist terrorism against our Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, the situation in the region and the escalation of the Gulf war.

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reiterated the support of the YAR people and government for the Palestinian revolution and the constant readiness of the YAR to contribute with all means to the support of the Palestinian people in their march for liberation and victory and for the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The meeting was attended by Jamal at-Turani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Abu Shakir, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO representative in Saudi Arabia.

'Arafat Makes Departure Statement

GF221321 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Brother Yasir 'Arafat [Abu 'Ammar], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left San'a' early this morning following a visit to our country, during which he met with his Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and discussed with him ways to strengthen fraternal relations and ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and issues of mutual concern.

In a statement to SABA' News Agency prior to his departure, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that during the visit he reviewed with the brother president the efforts of the ICO Good Offices Committee, the resolutions it adopted on the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the Yemeni-Palestinian plans to confront the recent developments in the Arab region and in the Palestinian arena. 'Arafat also briefed the brother president with the results of the Palestinian dialogue in Aden and Algiers.

AL-WAFD Calls For Acting Against U.S. Over Jerusalem

PM230603 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Jul 84 p 10

[Counselor Mumtaz Nassar Article: "Between the U.S. Policy and the Islamic World"]

[Text] There is no doubt that World War II produced two conflicting superpowers competing for domination and control of the world. These powers are the United States and Russia. These two giants are competing for control of the world, each in accordance with the policies drawn up by its leaders. You see one of the two superpowers sometimes not hesitating to resort to armed invasion against the country it wants to control and at other times seeking control through supporting a puppet regime that follows the policy of superpower desires.

There is no doubt either that the two superpowers act in accordance with the dictates of their countries' higher interests. If the higher interests call for invasion, then they do not hesitate to follow that course, and if they call for supporting agents and establishing control through them, then they have no scruples about doing so. There is no doubt that these are some of the obvious principles of foreign policy. It is even said that in its policy a superpower is motivated by its interests. In fact all world countries are influenced by their vital interests in their relationships with other countries.

But what cannot be understood is why one of the two superpowers resorts to defying world feelings by taking steps that arouse anger and create great discontent liable to threaten its own vital interests.

Speaking more specifically and clearly, I would like to ask: What prompts the U.S. Congress to seek speeding the passage of legislation aimed at relocating the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem in defiance of the Islamic world? For more than a year reports have been circulating to the effect that U.S. Jewish pressure groups inside Congress are seeking to expedite passage of a bill to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem in response to U.S. Jewish pressure in general, thus disregarding the destructive effect this will have on U.S. interests in the Islamic world.

Is U.S. policy so foolish as to destroy U.S. interests throughout the Islamic world for the sake of pleasing a group of world Jewry? Are the U.S. leaders so stupid as to expose U.S. interests in the entire Islamic world to destruction? We recall that the Egyptian President earlier warned the United States of the serious consequences to U.S. interests in the Islamic world if it implements this bill. Nevertheless, we still hear reports that the bill is about to be passed and that the United States is going ahead with this foolish policy.

So the Islamic world is now called upon more than ever before to adopt a clear and declared stand in case the United States passes this bill and implements it. The Islamic world is today called upon to take specific steps and shun statements and speeches that are meaningless and that are forgotten in a matter of days or months, as we have been accustomed to see in the past. We demand that the Islamic world adopt a common stand, to be declared as of now, that if this bill is implemented then the Islamic countries are duty-bound to destroy all U.S. interests in the Islamic world. The Islamic world should declare war on the United States because of its impudence and arrogance. The Islamic states should sever all political, economic, cultural, and social ties.

I believe that after such a declaration the United States will awaken from the Zionist drug that is threatening its very own structure. I believe that unless such steps are taken the United States will go ahead with what it is doing to please world Jewry, who are no more than 10 million people, and will sacrifice all the Islamic world which now exceeds 1 billion people.

God be my witness that I said what I have to say. God is truthful.

DPRK Sends National Day Greetings

NC231142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received the following congratulations cable from DPRK President Kim Il-song:

On the occasion of the 32d anniversary of the 23 July Revolution, I congratulate Your Excellency and the government and people of Egypt on your national day. The DPRK Government and people are also congratulating you on this occasion. I wish the friendly people of Egypt every success in their efforts for development and for implementing the 5-year plan — the plan which is conducted under your sober guidance to bring about social and economic progress.

On this occasion, I would like to express my deep conviction that the friendship and cooperation binding our countries together will expand and develop in every domain.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,535

JN231621 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,535 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 July 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the vicious Khomeyniite regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded with artillery several enemy positions, troop concentrations, and weapon emplacements opposite their positions in the operational sector east of Basra. They scored direct and effective hits, killing or wounding several enemy troops, destroying two infantry positions and one hardware stockpile, and causing large fires and explosions in other enemy positions.

2. Several of our helicopter gunships carried out combat missions against an enemy troop concentration in the Maysan sector, scoring direct hits. All of our bold helicopters returned safely, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units sighted several enemy troops and vehicles opposite its positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. It opened artillery fire on them, killing or wounding several enemy troops, and destroying one vehicle, one excavator, and one infantry position.

4. Our forward units fired on an enemy observation post and several troops opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield, destroying the post and hitting its occupants. Elsewhere in the same sector, our capable artillery dealt effective, concentrated blows to the enemy positions and concentrations, killing or wounding several troops and destroying two hardware stockpiles.

5. One of our forward units engaged an enemy patrol and several enemy positions in the Maysan sector. It dealt them effective strikes and forced the patrol to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 July 1984

Light Industry Chief Meets Polish Counterpart

JN231657 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, minister of light industries, met with Edward Waszak, under secretary of state at the Polish Ministry of Construction and Construction Materials Industry, and his delegation. The two sides discussed the possibilities of expanding bilateral relations in the field of light industries.

The Polish commercial adviser attended the meeting.

Syria, Iran Negotiate on Payment of Oil Debt

JN240811 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Vienna, 24 Jul (INA) —Well informed oil sources in Vienna today revealed that the meeting between the Syrian oil minister and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus 3 days ago had been devoted to resolving the differences concerning the settlement of Syria's debts to Iran, which have exceeded $1 billion.

In a statement to the INA correspondent here, these sources said that the Syrian minister had asked that the settlement of these debts be postponed in view of the financial difficulties and economic circumstances being experienced by his country.

The sources added that during the meeting the Syrian minister had also asked that these debts should not be an obstacle to further supplying Syria with Iranian crude oil in order to prevent the recurrence of the crisis Syria experienced last April and May, when the Syrian authorities had had to raise the price of oil byproducts and had to ask the citizens to reduce their energy consumption.

The same sources said that the Iranian ambassador had not given any guarantees to the Syrian minister regarding the continuation of oil supplies to Syria in view of the siege that Iraq is imposing on Khark Island, which obstructed Iranian oil exports and reduced Iran's oil revenues. He only promised to convey Syria's demand to his regime in Tehran.

The sources explained that Iran prefers to sell its oil on the spot market in view of its need for cash rather than sell its oil to Syria and be paid later.

Effect of Mondale Nomination on Arabs Viewed

JN200749 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arab Stand Is the Basis," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The competition among the Democratic Party's candidates in the U.S. presidential elections has ended in San Francisco with the victory of Walter Mondale, who has become the Democratic Party's official candidate in these elections.

The paper adds: With Mondale's victory, the U.S. presidential election battle between the Republican and Democratic parties enters a new stage of escalation in order to attract the U.S. voters, especially the Jewish voters. Thus, the Democratic Party's program adopts the Israeli viewpoint on the Middle East conflict more so than ever before. This situation will naturally influence the program of President Reagan and the Republican Party vis-a-vis the Jerusalem issue, and the U.S. economic and military support for Israel.

The paper says: Thus, the Arab bet on a positive change resulting from the U.S. and Israeli elections is considered a self-deception and a postponement of Arab moves in order to wait for miracles that will never happen.

The paper continues: Thus, it seems that the only alternative to waiting for miracles from Washington and Tel Aviv is to mobilize Arab resources, adopt a strong and courageous Arab stand, remove differences, unify the ranks, liberate Arab will from weakness, and save Arab capability from differences and secondary battles.

The paper concludes: Both the dialouge held on the sidelines at the Arab parliaments' meetings in Damascus and the Libyan diplomatic moves aimed at clearing the Arab air revived hopesin desperate souls. Such trends must be reinforced and intensified between the Arab capitals in order to remove the current stalemate in the Arab political situation. This would produce a serious and decisive Arab stand — a stand which could deal with the challenges of the future with strength and effectiveness — instead of waiting for help from forces and sides of which we are fully aware and from which we have suffered a great deal.

Al-Fayiz, Delegation Return From Syria

JN201307 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] Amman — 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives and head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab parliamentary speakers' meetings, returned to Amman today. The meetings began in Damascus last Monday and lasted for several days.

In a statement to journalists before leaving the Damascus airport, Al-Fayiz said that the Jordanian delegation's meeting with President al-Asad was useful. He said: We discussed current issues in the Arab arena, and bilateral relations between Jordan and Syria. He expressed the hope that the stalemate which dominated these relations for awhile will be removed. He asserted that Syria and Jordan are one country.

Al-Fayiz said: His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad are brothers at the personal level. He expressed the hope that King Husayn and President al-Asad would be able to close Arab ranks and unify their stands in order to serve Arab issues in general and the Palestinian cause in particular.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Fayiz said: The Arabs must close their ranks, stand on Iraq's side, and work in order to end this war. He asserted that any damage afflicting Iraq will harm the entire Arab nation and that Iraq's power is power for all the Arabs. Therefore, Iraq constitutes a power that the Arabs must support.

On the results of the Arab parliamentary speakers' meetings, Al-Fayiz said: The results were positive, and the resolutions met the level of responsibility. He called for unity in the Arab parliamentarians' stands at the IPU meetings and in all international quarters.

The accompanying delegation also returned to Amman. The delegation was comprised of Senate members Walid Salah and Dhuqan al-Hindawi; House of Representatives members Dr Sami Jawdah, Salman al-Qudat, Farah Abu Jabir, Rizq al-Batayinah, Mahir Arshid, Marwan al-Humud, and Dawud Sulayman Dawud; Yahya ad-Durubi, secretary general of the Parliament; and Zayd Zurayqat, the parliamentary affairs director.

Al-Fayiz To Submit Report

JN211304 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Speaker of the House of Representative 'Akif al-Fayiz will submit a report to the appropriate sides on the very important talks he held recently with a number of Syrian officials, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and the Syrian People's Assembly speaker.

Columnist Urges Rapprochement With Syria

JN231306 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jul 84 pp 1, 22

[Article by 'Hakim' headlined "Jordan, Syria and the One Danger," carried within the 'Opinion' column]

[Text] The Jordanians do not conceal their desire to improve relations with Syria. Nobody imagines or believes that this desire emanates from a weak postion or from a position of ignorant political opportunism, which understands neither Jordan nor the Jordanians.

Very simply, Jordan is always preoccupied with Arab worries and considers any Arab discord leading to estrangement as unjustified and impermissible, regardless of the reasons, becausethis estrangement immediately becomes a sharp knife in the hands of the Arab nation's enemies and leaves the door open for foreign intervention, which encroaches on the Arab nation's destiny and future.

Jordan's geographical location, its continued view of the Israeli danger across the river, and its daily dealings with the Palestinian tragedy with all the strategic dangers to its own existence and with all the humanitarian burdens which fall upon it, may be the main reasons that make Jordan more concerned than anybody else about Arab differences and about Arab solidarity — Arab solidarity which is considered the only lifebuoy.

From this premise, the Jordanians do not have sensitivities hindering them from expressing their sincere desire to improve their relations with all Arab countries, particularly with Syria — their historic and sister neighbor. From this premise also, the Jordanians welcomed the meeting that took place in Damascus between the Jordanian House of Representatives delegation and Syrian officials,hopeing that this meeting would be a breakthrough in the relations between the two countries — a breakthrough that would remove the fabricated rift between them and restore warmth and mutual understanding between Amman and Damascus.

However, to be frank with both ourselves and the brothers in Syria, we do not hesitate to say that while we are talking about improving relations with them our eyes are fixed on Israel and the the Gulf. There are sources of great dangers that are threatening to wipe us and them out together — God forbid.

Furthermore, and to be more frank, we must say that improving relations with the Syrians should not be at the expense of normal pan-Arab stands, which both we and they are expected to adopt.

Certainly, we have different opinions on the Iraq-Iran war, but we are in agreement more than at any time before on the subject of Israel and how to deal with it.

Should the differences in opinion result in estrangement? Can we not have different opinions yet hold a dialogue? Is this not the case with relations among all civilized countries of the world that have different opinions but do not sever relations or suspend their dialogue?

In human relations it is not possible for all people to agree on everything. It is also not possible — as has been proven through past experience — that estrangement and information campaigns can impose the theories of one sovereign country on another sovereign country. We in this region do not ignore or disregard the importance of the Syrian role. However, our recognition of this Syrian role does not mean that we must relinquish our right to have an independent view of matters or to present our viewpoint frankly and clearly to our brothers.

Therefore, let us agree on the fact that we look at certain matters differently and that this difference in opinion, which is something normal, does not justify division or discord. Let us agree that normalizing relations between us is the only way toward narrowing the gap of such differences, and perhaps toward a unified outlook. This is in addition to the fact that this normalization of relations is the only means of jointly confronting the common dangers and challenges — that is if we are really serious about confronting these dangers and challenges.

Israeli Election Platforms Criticized

JN221021 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Race and Its Old Horses," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The Israeli voters go to the polls tomorrow to elect the 11th Knesset members in an atmosphere of extremism and rabid competition aimed at attracting the vote of groups harboring the greatest tendency toward expansion, annexation, and settlement. This is being done without any attention being paid to the great lessons of the recent past.

This is because both the major and minor Zionist parties, which recently endeavored through their concerted propoganda campaigns to present their election platforms and their stands on foreign political issues, all agreed to continue to adhere to the policy of annexation and settlement, denying the Palestinian people's rights, and regarding Jerusalem as the united, eternal capital of Israel.

AD-DUSTUR continues: Although most of these rival parties were careful to include in their election campaign limited clauses on peace and settlement plans, this alleged peace continues to stem from the logic of force in addition to what this dictates in terms of rights achieved through the use of force and the fait accompli policy. Moreover, this peace continues to emanate from a traditional Zionist concept of secure borders, military superiority, and deterring and frightening the Arabs.

The leaders of the rival Zionist parties are not paying any attention to the lessons ofthe invasion of Lebanon and its bitter effects on the social and economic situation in Israel. The most important lesson is that military force alone cannot achieve a definite political settlement and that expansion and war cannot achieve peace, establish secure borders, or accomplish coexistence on both sides ofthe border.

AD-DUSTUR affirms: The Israeli voter, who is being called on tomorrow to support the claimants of expansion and war, or to reelect the symbols of hegemony, occupation, and brilliant military victories, will find himself the day after tomorrow being asked to go to a new aggressive war. Moreover, he will find himself being forced to sacrifice more blood as long as there are no real claimants of peace and as long as the dreams of power and superiority find those who applaud them and pursue their deceptive mirage.

Peres' Bid To Negotiate With Egypt Criticized

JN210740 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peres Paves the Road To Tempt Egypt," *AR-RA'Y* says: It seems that Shim'on Peres is paving the way to tempt Egypt to engage in bilateral negotiations either on the Palestine question or on the future of Gaza. This is represented by Peres' proposal to withdraw the self-rule topic

from the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations agenda — negotiations that were suspended during the end of the late President as-Sadat's reign — and to begin negotiations again, in order to include the Palestine question, and especially Gaza, into the agenda.

It is obvious that Peres' goal in this proposal is to achieve the following: 1. Abort the call to hold an international conference to discuss the Palestine question, and replace this conference with a bilateral discussion of the question between Egypt and Israel.

2. Abolish the role of the PLO as a main concerned party in this question.

3. Harm Egypt on Arab ground, and burn the bridges Egypt has succeeded in extending to the Arab world since President Mubarak assumed power.

AR-RA'Y concludes: Needless to say, all of these motives cannot be hidden from Egyptian policy, which is aware of Israel's methods and objectives. Therefore, hope remains high that Cairo will not get involved in Peres' suspect proposal, particularly since Egypt has declared from the beginning of President Mubarak's reign that it refuses to deal unilaterally with any attempt to find a solution to the Palestine question, that it cannot exercise custodianship on it, and it will not impose the Camp David accords as a basis for discussing this question. Furthermore, Egypt has declared several times that it desires and is determined to avoid any behavior that widens the Arab split or hampers building the aspired unified Arab ranks.

Israeli Chief of Staff Levi's Wounds Noted

JN191508 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 19 Jul 84 pp 1, 28

[Text] In a detailed report by its military correspondent on the resistance operations in southern Lebanon, the Israeli Army radio said on Tuesday that a group of Lebanese resistance men attacked a fortified Israeli position in the village of Maghdushah at 1005 on Saturday. The radio added that Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Levi, who happened to be in the position, was hit by exploding bomb fragments. He received the necessary first aid before he was transported by helicopter to Rambam Hospital.

The correspondent added that one Israeli soldier was killed and two others were slightly wounded in the attack. Muhammad Yusuf al-Bahdani, one of the attackers, was captured.

The report disclosed that a special Israeli force consisting of paratroopers and guerrillas was formed under the command of General David Herzl to encounter the fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon.

The report added that the Israeli forces had reinforced their positions in the south in order to confront the increasing resistance attacks and that the Israeli forces received strict orders to be more alert and cautious and to open fire on any mobile target without prior warning.

Husayn Cables Mubarak on 23 July Anniversary

JN231605 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Amman, 23 Jul (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable of congratulations to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. In the cable, his majesty congratulated the president in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on the 23 July revolution. The following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency Brother Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Cairo.

On the occasion of the 23 July revolution anniversary, I am pleased to send to you and to your genuine Arab people, in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian Government, our sincere congratulations and warmest wishes. We beseech Almighty God to fufill the Egyptian people's aspirations for loftiness, dignity, and prosperity, to grant us success for the welfare of our Arab peoples and just causes, and guide our steps in confronting the dangerous challenges that are threatening our land, heritage, and destiny.

May God bless you and grant you continued good health.

Egypt's Agriculture Minister Arrives for Talks

JN221853 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Dr Yusuf Wali, Egyptian minister of agriculture and food security, arrived in Amman this evening on a visit of several days in order to discuss agricultural cooperation between the two countries. Minister of Agriculture Muhammad Bashir, the ministry's under secretary, and the official in charge of the Egyptian interests section in Amman received the Egyptian guest at the airport.

Meets Prince Hasan

JN231644 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Amman — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at his office today Egyptian Minister of Agriculture Yusuf Wali, who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, they discussed various aspects of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in the agricultural areas. Minister of Agriculture Muhammad Bashir, and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Amman attended the meeting.

Jawad al-'Anani Returns From United Kingdom

JN211945 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] Amman — Industry, Trade, and Tourism Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani and his accompanying delegation returned to Amman from the United Kingdom this evening. In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, Dr al-'Anani said that he led a joint Jordanian-Iraqi delegation to hold talks with the representatives

of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the British establishment for financing British exports, and a group of international trade banks. These talks dealt with financing the Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline project.

Al-'Anani also said that during his meeting with British Trade and Industry Minister Channon, he reviewed the British establishments' expected role in financing and implementing the pipeline.

Deputy Prime Minister on Rumors, Corruption

JN202057 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1902 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Interview with Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, by moderator Muhammad Amin, Jordanian Television news director; and Jordanian journalists Ahmad Shakir and 'Abdallah al-'Utum, in Amman; date not specified —video recorded]

[Excerpts] [Muhammad Amin] We welcome you. The issues of rumors and corruption are issues important to the people, and which people are talking about. The government adopted several steps on a number of issues. These may lead to prosecution. These issues are being talked about by the citizens, who may exaggerate these issues or vice versa. Rumors flourish in the absence of facts and the citizen's awareness. The citizen's awareness must be based on the extent of his knowledge of facts. You are the source of facts. Can you tell us about this issue?

[Sulayman 'Arar] Thank you Brother Muhammad. We will talk about two things. You mentioned two issues: The issue of the current investigation of some government employees and the issue of rumors. Although there is a financial aspect to both issues, they are, in fact, two separate issues. If you wish me to begin talking about the investigations then I shall, and if you wish me to talk about rumors afterward, then I shall also talk about these.

[Amin] Whatever you prefer.

['Arar] To start with, I would like to say that Jordanian society, like all other societies, witnessed a major economic and social change during recent years, particularly in the early 1970's. This had both a positive and negative impact on our society. The most prominent negative impact is the phenomenom of digression and encroachment upon other people's money and interests. To start with, I would like to say that our people have a sound structure and course. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of government employees are good, benevolent, and honest. However, like any other society there are deviant characters. There are penal laws throughout the world to deal with these deviant characters.

The government could have ignored these violations. Moreover, it could have quietly expelled and fired the employees without any fuss. However, the government chose the democratic, frank, and open course. As you recall, the government's Cabinet statement pledged to the Jordanian leadership and people that it will shake hands with the honest people and that it will strike at the mischievous hands. This was the case. The government did not hesitate to investigate any case that infringed on public money and interests. If sufficient evidence became available that a certain employee was involved in a certain case, it would be referred to the courts for judgement according to the law. We are not a country that arrests people on suspicion. Our citizens are honest people, thank God. However, if some individuals commit certain violations or transgressions, then that does not mean that our society is unsound. These violations take place in all societies. Thus, penal laws and legislation were laid down throughout the world.

We did not choose to deal with things secretly. We wanted to do things in the open before all the citizens. I repeat that every violation in the government organs that we heard about was followed up and investigated. All the government organs, employees, and citizens see and know the names of those who are interrogated. They are not all convicted. We are not the party that decides on who is convicted or not. The law decides this. Our duty is to implement the law. This is the extent of these issues. You all know the number of violations, which is small compared to others, even with respect to the number of people who are brought to trial. You know and we know that there are imperfections in this world that many people talk about. We chose the other method, the method of facing people and presenting facts to the citizens. We have nothing to hide or to be ashamed of. Thus, we have fulfilled our pledge of loyalty and truth to His Majesty King Husayn and to our citizens. Punishment has meant life for societies since God created the world. Honesty is a responsibility. Responsibility necessitates that the wrongdoer is punished and the hard worker is rewarded.

[Amin] Brother 'Abdallah, do you have anything to say on the issue?

['Abdallah al-'Utum] The minister seems to indicate that the number involved is very small and as if it is uncommon.

['Arar] The government organs have nearly 100,000 employees both working and retired. Thus, when the investigation includes [sentence incomplete]. I am not saying that they have been convicted of previous cases. Some people, whose names are known and were published, have been convicted. However, in the current cases, in one or two departments, we have a number of people which is not small, but compared to the number of government employees it is very small. All is well if this is the extent of the violations, which take place anywhere in the world.

[Ahmad Shakir] There is panic among employees that the measures against administrative corruption may move from one department to another. We would like to hear your opinion on this issue.

['Arar] As I have said, such panic is unjustified. Everything must have a reason. When any government that respects its system is informed of any violation it initiates an investigation. If it is not informed, it will not investigate. I assure you that all the government departments and employees that were not investigated were not reported to us. They are performing their work honestly and sincerely in our eyes and in the eyes of the law, people, and society. There is no need for them to worry. We do not base our investigation on suspicion. The law convicts and acquits.

[Amin] Your Excellency. Since you talked about [words indistinct]. I have noticed that you have greatly avoided going into details. This is your right since the case has not yet been referred to the court and the court may discuss the case without being influenced by the media or the opinion of any official. You are right. However, after the court makes its decision, will you allow us to cover the case?

['Arar] Yes.

[Amin] In the beginning, you said that the issue is in two parts: corruption and rumors. The rumors sometimes touch people who have faithfully performed their duty at the highest level. What is your reply?

['Arar] Rumors have been a disease with which man has been afflicted since he was created by God. Therefore, Islam and the Koran warn the Muslims not to listen to rumors. If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth. [Koranic verses] Thus, we are obliged to ascertain the truth and to be aware of wicked news and those who report it. This is to start with. However, anyone who follows the rumors that have prevailed in our societies can deduce three observations that will lead to three categories of rumormongers. Let us talk about the observations. The first observation: It is noted that the rumors have all been against faithful and loyal people who served their country and king. The rumors were never directed against those who were brought to trial and are being interrogated. Suddenly, we find that a certain minor case that has been reported and investigated is being linked to a certain person. Questions are asked: Is that person being imprisoned? It is said that he is being held in a certain place. All this is an untimely and poorly chosen attempt to involve the names of good people. We wonder why. These are honest and faithful people, whose biggest asset is that they fight corruption. They are most esteemed among the people for their honesty. They are being confronted with rumors.

That was the first observation. The second observation is that the rumormongers themselves repeat the rumors as though they do not believe their rumors. Actually, they do not believe in these rumors. Almost all of them would start the rumors by asking: Is it true that this or that person is imprisoned? Is it true that he is involved in a certain case? Is it true that this or that person left the country? Is it true that this or that person has fled? They would say that others said that this or that person is involved. They would say that they heard.

The third observation is that the Zionist media concentrates on these rumors. These are the three observations. If you allow me, I will move on to categorize the groups that repeated such rumors. I believe that the first group is made up of persons or a person who missed a great deal of benefits and lost many opportunities. This answers your question, Brother Muhammad,[Muhammad Amin] as to why people who are renowned for their integrity are being attacked. Those who lost opportunities believe that these people were the cause. They believe that the reason they missed all these opportunities was because these leadersstayed so long in power was. Thus, we find this group heads the other groups that spread rumors.

[Amin] For personal reasons?

['Arar] For personal reasons. Moreover, this group even believes that the present people [in power] and the present trend are a continuation of that school's service, frankness, and combat of corruption. [sentence as heard]

The second group is the fifth column. As you know, there is a fifth column in every country. We cannot pretend that we do not have a fifth column, although we may not know it. There is a fifth column in every country. There is no doubt that the fifth column has played a role in this regard. Once we see what the Western media, Zionist propaganda, and the Zionist media in Israel circulate, we can specify that the fifth column of Israel and ones other than Israel are also participating in this story, and they are expected to do so.

Jordan, under his majesty the king's leadership, is the country which foiled Camp David. It was Jordan which sailed in this poor, small boat and kept our heads high among the region's heads without falling into traps. This country is targeted by Israel. Which country played a large role in bringing about the success of the Baghdad summit? Which country prevented the nation's collapse at the Baghdad summit? Which country prevented a large split in the Arab League? We proudly say that it was Jordan, whose leadership played a large role in this regard. It was Jordan which attacked and exposed the United States' relations with Israel on television and even in the U.S. news media. Jordan exposed through its news media Israel's role in displacing, killing, crushing, expelling, and persecuting people. Israel cannot forget all this.

Those following the Israeli elections note that Sharon is using two busses to tour Israel on an election campaign. On one side of these two busses there is a picture of his majesty the king,under which the following is written: Elect me so that this [King Husayn] will not rule you or expel you. How does Israel penetrate our country? Its experiences in wars and with men are no longer easy. It is easier for it to penetrate our ranks by shaking our confidence in ourselves, and in our structure as well as by splitting our cohesion with our leadership. Jordan is strong by rallying around Husayn's leadership, by its self-confidence, and by believing that we will all act collectively when necessary. They want to shake off this covfidence by defaming even the good personalities through rumors. They want to penetrate Jordan's edifice in this manner. We are certain that the fifth column has played a role in this regard.

Do you imagine that Israel is eager to maintain the cleanliness of the Jordanian employee's work, or eager to see Jordanian society deal with its diseases? No. Those who hear the Western media realize the magnitude of the onslaught against Jordan and the size of the talk about the Jordanian alternative, the alternative homeland, and the Jordanian option, in addition to the campaign against all of Jordan. We must be alert to this.

The third group which, I believe, has contributed to these rumors — and actually it is expected of them by human nature — is those people who were harmed by previous investigations or legal verdicts. Those in this group want to make everyone look alike to make it difficult for the citizen to distinguish between them.

[Amin] Before we end the subject of rumors, what about the rumor on a government reshuffle?

['Arar] A minister is not usually asked about a rumor on a government reshuffle because this reshuffle may include him. [laughter]

[Amin] We want the truth, sir. Is there any truth to this rumor? [laughter]

['Arar] I told you, a minister should not be asked about this.

[Al-'Utum] Let us talk about the new electoral law being studied by the Interior Ministry. It has been noted that this law excludes the Armed Forces, civilian organs, and civil defense. Those areas represent part of our society and they have the right to vote and elect their representatives. What is Your Excellency's opinion?

['Arar] The new electoral law allows the Armed Forces to register in the electors' lists. However, they are not allowed to exercise their electoral right. The reason is, as you know, and as it is the case in many world states, that the electoral campaign is not allowed among regular forces. In order to keep the militrary men removed from politics and to avoid interference in elections, all democratic states approved this rule, or many of the democratic states approved this rule that we also follow. The new law allows the Armed Forces, intelligence, and civil defense personnel to register their names on the lists, but like the previous law, this new law prevents them from exercising the right to vote.

[Shakir] As long as we are talking about the new electoral law, my question is: Will the changes in the new law include the number of nominees, representatives, constituencies, the age factor, and Jordanians abroad? We have approximately 300,000 Jordanians abroad who cannot exercise their right to vote. Is the election process compulsory? We would like to be clear on this.

['Arar] I can tell you about the new characteristics of the new law that differ from those in the previous law. I can tell you about some of these characteristics, not all of them, because you have asked many questions. As for the age, the voting age has been reduced to 18 years. Before it was 20.

[Shakir] Sir, let us touch on the Gaza citizens. The government had granted 1-year temporary passports to them. What happened is that a large number of them whose sons became 16 years old believe that it is necessary to have an independent passport. The Gaza citizens wonder because many places abroad refuse to issue passports for those who are over 16 years old. What are the government's measures in this regard?

['Arar] You mean the temporary passports. These passports had been issued to those who crossed borders in 1967, after the 1967 tragedy. Those who crossed borders and settled here and who are non-Jordanians. I mean they are not citizens of the West or East Banks. The state believed that it should grant them temporary passports. Later, another group of Gaza citizens who wanted to earn a living abroad were granted temporary passports. The rule now is that those who stay in Gaza and do not want to travel or work abroad can maintain their passports. However, these passports cannot be renewed unless they want to travel. If they want to travel to perform pilgrimage, then we will renew their passports. We will issue a passport to anyone who would like to join his son in the Gulf. As for their sons, those who want to travel in order to study abroad, we will give them a passport. We will also give passports to those who want to work abroad. In fact, the door is open. As long as he stays in Gaza and the renewal of the passport takes place on an annual basis. By doing this we are saving him money and do not give him a passport unless he needs it. He is allowed to come to Jordan, but when he comes to us asking to renew his passport, we question him. If he says that he wants to leave in order to study abroad, then we grant him a passport.

[Al-'Utum] The brothers who bear the Palestinian document feel that Jordan is their country more than any other country. Some of those who bear Egyptian, Lebanese, or Syrian documents say that they desire a Jordanian passport or a temporary passport.

['Arar] Brother 'Abdallah, you are talking about 1 million persons in Gaza, Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria. No small country such as Jordan can allow 1 million persons to reside in it. This would entail a very heavy burden, in addition to the fact that those persons were already distributed to the Arab states. They are the share of the Arab states who participated in the 1948 [war]. They are those states' share of the Palestine burden. This must continue until the question [Palestinian] is settled, or otherwise we relieve them of their responsibilities. In addition to this, Israel now seeks to expel the Palestinians from many areas and empty them from other Arab areas. It is not in the interest of the question that these areas become vacant as long as the question is not settled. Our feelings and theirs are right. We are the sons of one homeland and one country. However, as long as the question is not settled, we shoulder the burden emotionally without having anyone to share this burden with. The other Arab states who have a smaller number of [Palestinians] than Jordan must assume their responsibility in this regard.

[Al-'Utum] Let us discuss the topic of political parties. Sir, it seems that Jordan's restoration of parliamentary life and the freedom and openness with which we are moving as journalists requires the return of political parties. Why do the political parties not return and draw up the nation's policy and help the parliament in its work?

['Arar] You are asking something about which my opinion is clear. The Jordanian Constitution says that the citizens are entitled to parties. By this, the Constitution means those parties that abide by the Constitution and have faith in the country's leadership, regime, and laws. It does not mean the parties that conspire against the country. As a start, our Constitution allows for the formation of parties in accordance with the law. However, the past experience of parties in Jordan alienated our country, and it was preferred to do away with parties due to well known mistakes and practices. Many of our parties used to be manipulated across the borders. No country in the world allows parties to operate across the borders, especially at a time when there were currents and storms surrounding us — currents and storms that have cleared up, thanks be to God.

As a citizen I am committed to what is decided by the government. However, I believe that once all the dimensions of this

subject are studied, the time of applying and [word indistinct] the provisions of the Constitution is not far away. The Constitution gives rights to people and to the faithful citizen who is really loyal to the Constitution and to the regime and who observes and applies the laws. I think that a decision in this regard is not made by an individual minister, but by the government. Our country, thanks be to God, has passed through great experiences which convinced it that we are right, that our leadership is right, and that our citizen is now strongly fortified. The rumors about which we have already spoken can no longer shake our citizen. These rumors are trying to shake our fortified citizen, but in vain.

I believe that the climate is now ready for democratic practices. There will, God willing, be no danger on our march. On the contrary, these practices will strengthen us because the previous experiences strengthened and immunized us. A look at many countries makes us more convinced of this fact. A comparison between our situation 20 years ago and the present state under our leadership makes us more eager to stick to our system, laws, and Constitution.

[Amin] In fact, sir, you have given us more than we expected — and this is not a rumor, but a fact. [laughter] We thank you very much. There is no doubt that the brother citizens have enjoyed this conversation and the trend being stressed by the government to open channels of contact with the citizen, because this is, in fact, the only way to kill the fifth column and resist rumors. We hope that this trend will continue and expand, not only regarding television, but with all media. Thank you again for this meeting. We thank His Excellency Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and minister of interior. I also thank my colleagues journalists Ahmad Shakir and 'Abdallah al-'Utum.

Minor Earth Tremors Recorded in Amman 21 Jul

JN220822 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 84 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Two minor earth tremors occurred in Amman and its suburbs yesterday morning.

Dr Zuhayr al-'Isa, a seismologist at the University of Jordan's science faculty, confirmed the occurrence of the two tremors.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, he said that the first tremor occurred at 0711 and 54 seconds [0511 and 54 seconds GMT] and registered 1.3 on the Richter scale; the second tremor occurred a few seconds later and registered 0.9 on the Richter scale.

He said that analysis of the recorded measurements by the seismological equipment at the University of Jordan showed that the epicenters of the two temors were approximately 30 km away from the earthquake measurement center at the university.

Briefs

New Public Security Director — A royal decree has been issued ratifying the cabinet decision to appoint Major General Dhiyab Yusuf as director of public security, and retired Major General Muhammad 'Ali al-Amin as governor in the Interior Ministry. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 84 JN]

Karami Comments on Security Plan, Administration

NC231205 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] In a statement following his meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil at the presidential palace in B'abda today, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said:

[Begin recording][Karami] Actually, today's meetings were work meetings in the true sense of the word. On the military level, we were briefed on some remarks and demands which the military view as necessary for completing the implementation of the security plan in Beirut and beginning the implementation of the security plan in the mountain. We believe that the general situation which followed the painful events we experienced does not enable us to implement the drafted plans in a comprehensive and all-embracing manner, but rather in stages. This stage has accomplished its objectives and goals. What remains for us is to prepare for the second stage, particularly on the political level. This is what we have agreed upon and we will submit it to the next Cabinet meeting.

As for the administration, we are also conducting necessary studies for preparing the atmosphere to enable the state to embark upon realizing the required services and implementing all that would serve the public interest in various areas. Therefore, such meetings are a necessity so that we may lay down our visualization according to reality. We will follow up these studies so that we will be ready for the surge of the administration and the state with all their potentials to push forward work, because this will move the citizens from thinking of the security situation to thinking of the living and economic conditions.

[Unidentified reporter] Has your visit to Damascus and Saudi Arabia been fixed?

[Karami] I will surely make these and other visits, but no definite date has as yet been fixed.

[Reporter] Will the visit take place soon, I mean are there ongoing contacts in this regard?

[Karami] When the visits are made, God willing, you will know everything in due time.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, regarding the implementation of the security plan in the mountain, is this expected to take place this week?

[Karami] Most likely. However, we hope that the implementation of the security plan in the mountain will take place as soon as possible. I hope it will be within this week.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Karami] Why are you always in a hurry and want to know everything? When we speak about administration, we will spare no efforts and we will take all steps to consolidate administrative affairs and to place the administration on the required level to enable it to carry out its duties. [end recording]

Birri Confers in Damascus With Chedli Klibi

NC230526 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, met in Damascus yesterday with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. A statement issued by Minister Birri's office said the discussions during the meeting touched on the Lebanese situation in general and on the situation in the south in particular.

Minister Birri described the meeting as extremely positive, adding: I believe that the Arab League will play its role since the south is a main Arab issue that tops all other Arab priorities and concerns at the current stage.

Amal Movement sources said Birri and Klibi agreed that the Lebanese Government will submit a detailed memorandum on the ordeal being suffered by the Lebanese people in the south. This will likely be followed by an emergency meeting to be held by the Arab foreign ministers or by a meeting to be held by the Arab League Council at the Arab foreign ministers' level to discuss means to support the steadfastness being demonstrated by our people in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, and the financial aid necessary for this support.

Returns to Beirut

NC231236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of justice and of water and electrical resources, arrived in Beirut from Damascus this afternoon after holding talks with senior Syrian officials, including Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and tourism, attended the meeting between Birri and Khaddam.

Comments on Talks

NC240706 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami was contacted last night by Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, who returned to Beirut from Moscow via Damascus. Birri briefed the prime minister on the outcome of his visits to the Soviet and Syrian capitals. Birri received a telephone call from President al-Jumayyil.

Minister Birri's sources said that he brought with him a tenacious Syrian stand which insists on implementing the security plan so that security could prevail in Greater Beirut, the mountain, and other areas. The sources added that Minister Birri, while in Damascus, discussed the gaps that obstruct the implementation of the security plan. Minister Birri expressed his satisfaction over the atmosphere that prevailed during the tripartite meeting in Damascus in which Birri, Syrian Vice President Khaddam, and Walid Junblatt participated. Minister Birri added that Syria's main concerns at present are to see Lebanon return to its normal

situation and progress and expansion in the implementation of the security plan.

Minister Birri expressed satisfaction over his talks in Moscow, saying that the Soviet officials, despite their principled position toward the UN Emergency Forces' role in southern Lebanon, are prepared to reconsider their position if this will serve the Lebanese national interests.

Minister Birri explained that Moscow views the development in the Lebanese situation from a special perspective and that it does not object to an increase in the number of the UN Emergency Forces or to expanded areas of their deployment, if all this will guarantee the liberation of all the occupied areas.

French Envoy Tours Mountain, Gives Interview

NC221835 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] French Ambassador to Lebanon Ferdinand Wibeaux today toured some villages in the mountain where he inspected the destruction caused by the Lebanese Forces during the mountain war. The French ambassador stopped in 'Aytat, Baysur, and at the headquarters of the Progressive Socialist Party in 'Alayh. He also visited the offices of the Voice of the Mountain Radio, where he met with the radio officials.

The French ambassador was accompanied on his tour by (Michel Floteau), commander of the French observers in Lebanon, Sa'id ad-Dawi, and several journalists.

In an interview with the Voice of the Mountain Radio, the French ambassador was asked whether he was inconvenienced by the road. He said: The road was disturbing, but as I lived in Africa a long time, I am used to difficult roads and therefore was not very surprised.

Question: I believe you acquainted yourself with the condition of the villages?

Answer: I saw a lot of destruction. I believe that things must be described as they are. I saw great destruction that reminded me of some of our villages after World War II when I was a young man.

He added: You have suffered much and you have a lot to do to rebuild the area.

Question: Do you think that this would be easy in current circumstances?

Answer: There is nothing easy, but with determination and persistence we can do anything.

Question: Do you believe that the armistice will last long?

Answer: Some speak about an armistice and others speak about a peace march. Personally I believe that the second formula will triumph. In fact, there are some problems and difficulties, but I hope that the administration will not let these matters get worse, because you want peace, and this is what France also wants. We will seek to find a formula for it. (Floteau) is trying to portray the real events and problems, because his presence in Lebanon is not to monitor attacks but to attempt to avoid other problems and to outline everyone's responsibility in the events which take place.

He added: This is an important matter. Objectivity is required if we want the peace process to be successful.

Answering a question about the salvation march, he said: Some call it armistice. As far as we are concerned, it is a peace process.

Asked about his opinion on the reasons for delaying the security plan in the mountain, he said: I arrived when conditions were extremely bad and extremely complex. I was surprised by the speed with which things took place. I used to believe that it was difficult to restore normal conditions. What has been attained was due to the fact that there is a will to achieve success.

Asked about his impression of the Voice of the Mountain Radio, he said: I was astonished by this accomplishment. It indicates man's desire to achieve something. This has been very successful.

I expected to see a clandestine radio as in certain places in France.

However, the equipment available, the location, the organization, and the radio officials who established their presence in this field quickly — all this indicates an important and fine accomplishment. I hope that it will be used to serve Lebanon.

Information Ministry Director, British Envoy Meet

NC231332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Manaf Mansur, director general of the Information Ministry, this morning received the British ambassador to Lebanon, accompanied by the embassy's adviser. They discussed the role of the information media during the present phase.

The British ambassador presented his country's stand, expressing Britain's complete readiness to cooperate with the Information Ministry and placing its capabilities at the disposal of Lebanon in order to regain its health.

The discussions also dealt with the current political situation in light of new developments following the implementation of the security plan in Greater Beirut and the consequent consolidation of the state's authority and the unification of the country.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official To Visit 10 Aug

NC231752 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] It was learned from a diplomatic source that Ambassador Polyakov, who is in charge of Middle Eastern affairs at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, will visit Lebanon on a fact-finding tour as of 10 August.

VOL Interviews Sham'un on Return of Evacuees

NC230555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] At a meeting held in Al-Mukhtarah yesterday between Minister Walid Junblatt and a number of persons, Junblatt announced a decision to return the evacuees and revive coexistence in the mountain areas. However, the details concerning the return of Christian evacuees are still vague and must be corroborated by guarantees.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un told the Voice of Lebanon this morning that he has no knowledge about the meeting in Al-Mukhtarah. He added: My understanding is that all the evacuees will return to their homes. He said that Junblatt should not set preconditions regarding the return of evacuees.

Asked whether the return of evacuees will be simultaneous with the application of the security plan to the mountain, Sham'un said: The plan for the return of evacuees is not linked with any plans. However, it would be better if this plan takes place simultaneously with the implementation of the security plan in the mountain.

Asked when the security plan in the mountain will be implemented, Sham'un said: When we finish from Beirut. Asked whether there are technical obstacles, Sham'un said: Work is underway to provide the atmospheres for implementing the plan and overcoming some technical problems.

Replying to a question whether the force which would preserve security in the mountain will consist of Druze personnel, Sham'un said: No. It will consist of mixed personnel.

Junblatt Meets Christian Leaders on Evacuees

NC230704 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], yesterday met in Al-Mukhtarah with patriotic Christian leaders. The meeting stirred the interest of political observers, who regarded it as a patriotic and humanist approach aimed at ending the people's suffering by extending the security plan to include the mountain and the north and expanding the authority of the lawful government. The meeting also aimed at terminating the unwarranted exploitation of the evacuees' cause. The evacuees are opposed to all meddling in their affairs by the Phalangist Party in general and the Phalangist Ash-Shuf area in particular. The evacuees have paid a high price for the foolish policies adopted by the Phalangist Party and are well aware of the neo-fascist designs.

The meeting was attended by many Christian patriots: Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil; former Minister Najib Abu Haydar; Ilyas al-Habr; Samir Franjiyah; Fu'ad as-Sa'd; Khalil Khayrallah; Khalid ash-Shartuni; Dr Najib al-Qit; Rashid Bajjani; and Dayr al-Qamar Mayor George Dib. The conferees discussed the return of the evacuees and the ending of the Phalangist exploitation of their cause.

Following the meeting, PSP leader Walid Junblatt said that the PSP principled decision — which is shared by the patriotic forces in the mountain — is to bring all the mountain evacuees back to their properties without any conditions and to resume the formula of coexistence which the Lebanese forces have tried to annihilate. This is why, despite all that happened, the return of the evacuees remains an irrevocable principle of the PSP, the patriotic forces, and their sympathizers.

This does not mean, Junblatt said, that the PSP has relinquished its call for the return of the evacuees all over Lebanon — in the southern suburb, the slaughterhouse, and Al-Kurah. Nonetheless, we think that in order to save Lebanon from partitionist and federalist plans and similar designs — which contradict Lebanon's unity and the integrity of its institutions — the return of the evacuees to the mountain is a must. The issue of the evacuees rallies all well-intentioned people who want Lebanon to remain independent and united and who oppose the ill-famed designs.

To conclude, Junblatt said, we want the return of the evacuees to remain detached from political and sectarian auctioneering and cheap maneuvering.

Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil said: We have come to Al-Mukhtarah in response to a generous invitation made by our friend Walid Junblatt to discuss the return of the evacuees to their areas, particularly to Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh. We have reached some broad guidelines to return a portion of the evacuees and I hope that more will be done. We cannot let down the evacuees, Abu Fadil said. We insist that all of them return to their houses and villages. Answering a question, Abu Fadil said: We will certainly continue our meetings in view of the understanding reached with Walid Junblatt. I hope to meet him in Beirut after he returns from Damascus.

All Parties Placing Heavy Weapons in Depots

NC211900 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] Gathering of heavy weapons by the parties concerned took place today in two centers of the Amal Movement, two centers of the Progressive Socialist Party, and one unified center of the Lebanese Forces. These depots will be guarded by the parties concerned and by a French and a Lebanese observer as provided for in the security plan for Greater Beirut. The Quadripartite Committee will as of next Monday inspect these depots to verify the lists of weapons.

Security Committee on Collection

NC231214 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The Security Arrangements Committee has agreed on local measures providing for the withdrawal of gunmen from positions on the mountain to points behind the buffer lines.

The committee also agreed that observers from all the parties concerned should participate in observation operations. Representatives of Amal and the Socialists have informed the commit-

tee members that the heavy weapons will be collected this afternoon in the following manner: The weapons of the socialists will be gathered in two centers in Ru'ays and the Cola Bridge, where the weapons of the Communist Party should also be stored.

Amal has fixed one depot in the Al-Murayjah area. Amal has also undertaken to collect the weapons of Jundallah, Hezbollah, and various organizations.

The committee met at its premises at noon today in the presence of the French observers commander, (Colonel Floteau); Colonel Rafiq al-Faghghali, commander of the disengagement forces in the mountain sector; and the observers team.

PSP, Amal Gather Weapons

NC231716 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and the Amal Movement completed gathering their weapons at 1600 today. The Lebanese Forces finished gathering theirs on Saturday. The Socialists stored their weapons in two depots near the Cola traffic circle and in the Ru'ays area, while the Amal Movement gathered its weapons in a depot in the Al-Murayjah area. These depots are guarded by members of each party, two French observers, and four Army personnel led by an officer. A military source described the storing of the weapons as a gesture of good will for a political decision aimed to hand security over to the legitimate authority. Consequently, this means the quantity stored is only part of all the weapons.

Amal Militiamen Observed Setting Up Checkpoints

NC211712 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1645 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] While the Lebanese Forces were gathering their heavy weapons as demanded by the peace plan, breaches of security continued in Greater Beirut, perpetrated by armed elements on the western side. A short while ago, militiamen of the Amal Movement were observed setting up roadblocks and mobile checkpoints in the southern suburb.

Phalangist Party on Security Plan, Draft Treaty

NC231743 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] At the Phalangist Party Political Bureau and Central Council meeting, the Phalangist Party deputy leader, Dr Elie Karamah, noted certain gaps that he hoped would be dealt with successfully. He regarded the security plan as a beginning to a dialogue and a political agreement. Karamah described the draft document drawn up by the Phalangist and the National Liberal Parties as a draft treaty dealing with coexistence, decentralization, and guarantees. Concerning the evacuees, the Phalangist Party deputy leader said the party has a principled stand on this subject; namely, the return of all evacuees to their lawful property.

The draft document was discussed tonight by Minister Sham'un, Deputy George Sa'adah, Joseph Abu Khalil, and Marun Hilu.

The Lebanese Front will hold a meeting tomorrow at Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil's residence in Bikfayya to discuss all these matters.

The Lebanese Forces Command Council discussed the latest security and political developments at its weekly meeting tonight. It noted the reports received from various quarters and adopted the necessary measures.

Lebanese Forces, PSP Agree on Withdrawal

NC231714 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Representatives of the Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in the Security Arrangements Committee have agreed to fully abide by the cease-fire in the mountain and to withdraw from the new, conspicuous positions set up by the two sides. The withdrawal from these positions is expected to be implemented before Wednesday [25 July]. The Security Arrangements Committee will inspect the line extending from the port up to the Museum area tomorrow.

PSP Condemns Attack on Soviet Embassy in Beirut

NC231727 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] A Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] delegation led by deputy party leader Muhsin Dallul visited the Soviet Embassy and met with Soviet Charge d'Affairs (Yuriy Suslikov).

Following the visit, Dallul made a statement in which he said: We denounce the attack on the Soviet Embassy and condemn this suspicious act. It can only be part of the attempts to, first, remove the diplomatic presence from West Beirut, and, second, to impede the security plan. Dallul stressed the PSP's denunciation of any attempt to harm bilateral relations between the Lebanese and Soviet peoples.

PSP Position Attacked by Sunnite Resistance

NC240604 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The recurrent events in Greater Beirut make it imperative to complete the security plan in a more effective manner in light of the incidents which are disturbing security in West Beirut.

At approximately 0100 today, a Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] position in Tallat al-Khayyat was the target of an attack with rockets and machine guns. The position guards returned the fire. The clash lasted for a few minutes. Immediately afterward, the PSP gunmen took up positions on a number of streets in the area and started looking for the perpetrators, who fled in a Mazda car. A joint force of the 6th Brigade and Internal Security also rushed to the scene.

A short while ago, the Voice of Lebanon was contacted by an anonymous person who claimed to represent the Beirut Clandestine Sunnite Resistance [al-muqawmah as-sunniyyah al-bayrutiyah as-sirriyyah].

The caller claimed his movement was responsible for the attack on the PSP position. He threatened that other attacks would be carried out against the aliens' positions, as he put it, in West Beirut.

He added that the PSP would not be able to unearth those who carried out the operation, because they are faithful and capable of carrying out similar operations with utmost accuracy.

The attack on the PSP position was followed by an explosion at 0130 against the residence of Nadir Abu Shaqra in the Al-Mazra'ah area. As is known, Abu Shaqra is a PSP official. The socialists accused Al-Murabitun gunmen of having carried out the operation.

In another development, the Voice of Lebanon has learned that the area around the residence of Walid Junblatt in the Al-Musaytibah area was declared a military zone a few days ago after the discovery of two booby-trapped cars. Citizens residing in the area are being subjected to stringent security measures and are requested to carry certain identity cards if they wish to move within the aforementioned area.

Socialists Holding Number of Shhim Inhabitants

NC231035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Four socialist gunmen entered the township of Shhim last night, raided some houses, and led away some members of the 'Uwaydat family, including six Army personnel of various ranks.

Security sources have reported that these detainees are now in Bayt ad-Din where they are being interrogated. This operation comes in the wake of the clashes which took place between the inhabitants of Shhim and the socialists.

RFL Blames Socialists for Security Violations

NC240909 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Gunfire has been exchanged on Al-Jaza'ir Street in Al-Musaytibah near the residence of Minister Walid Junblatt. Gunmen belonging to Al-Murabitun were spotted roaming the area around the Arab University of Beirut.

In a similar development, tension prevailed in Tallat al-Khayyat when the Junblatt followers refused to withdraw their gunmen from the residential quarters and dismantle roadblocks set up following the rocket attack on a socialist position last night.

At 0900 today, an explosion rocked a position manned by Junblatt followers, leaving three persons wounded. Meanwhile, Kafr Shima is still subjected to sniper fire from the Junblatt followers' positions in Ash-Shuwayfat.

Socialists Kidnap 25 Sunnites in Shhim

NC241005 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Security reports reaching us from the Sunnite township of Shhim in Iqlim al-Kharrub indicate that Socialist gunmen stormed houses belonging to the 'Uwaydat clan and kidnapped not less than 25 persons, including 6 men from the Internal Security Forces. Deputy 'Abduh 'Uwaydat cabled Military Public Prosecutor Fawzi Daghir, urging him to investigate the matter immediately.

In another development in Tripoli, attempts have failed to deploy Internal Security Forces at the contact lines, where clashes broke out last night and this morning between the Sunnite Islamic Unification Movement and the 'Alawite Red Knights.

VOAL Reports Clashes in Tripoli, Southern Suburb

NC231310 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The security situation exploded violently in the Ash-Sha'rani-Al-Jallad building area in Tripoli at 1400 today. Reports say that three persons were killed or wounded. It was also reported that a member of the Internal Security Forces was wounded. The clashes are still going on. A shell fell 10 minutes ago in the At-Tall area near the As-Safadi shop and another shell fell in the Az-Zahiriyah area.

On another security level, there were limited security violations at 1130 on the Kafr Shima-Ash-Shuwayfat frontline. The violations stopped at noon. The violations began with the firing of 12.7 mm sniper bullets from Tallat ar-Ruways in Kafr Shima on Ash-Shuwayfat. They then developed into clashes with medium and light-caliber weapons.

The Security Arrangements Committee immediately held a meeting to which it called the French and Lebanese observers positioned in Kafr Shima and Ash-Shuwayfat. The observers briefed the committee on the reasons for the security violations. It was learned that the committee adopted practical measures to stop this continuous security exacerbation for the third day in a row. The committee also discussed the collection of heavy weapons in accordance with the security plan and what has been achieved so far in that respect.

Clashes Continue

NC231630 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The Northern Coordination Committee met at noon today in Prime Minister Rashid Karami's office under the chairmanship of Tripoli Mayor 'Ashir ad-Dayih. The committee discussed the security situation in Tripoli in view of the battles continuing there.

A delegation from the Northern Coordination Committee visited the Syrian command in Al-Haykaliyah at 1700 today. They discussed ways to end the clashes in Tripoli. The contacts held

thus far have failed to stop the battles, which intermittently continue after having somewhat abated at 1800.

Calm Restored

NC231830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Tension has ended in Tripoli and calm has returned to the Al-Qubbah area. The Northern Coordination Committee managed this afternoon to bring about a cease-fire agreement between the Islamic Unification Movement and the Arab Democratic Party, after the ADF Command intervened and helped pacify the situation.

Qabalan on Liberation of South From 'Zionism'

NC211429 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1405 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] The Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan today followed up conditions in the country, in particular conditions prevailing in the south. In this connection, Qabalan held a series of contacts with a number of religious scholars and officials in the south, inquiring about the Israeli measures practiced against innocent civilians. The Ja'farite mufti, moreover, studied the contacts underway and the efforts exerted to liberate the south. Qabalan called on the Cabinet to carry out steps in order to extricate Lebanon from its present crisis and set up drastic changes and reforms to reach adequate solutions. He called for justice, freedom, and equality among the Lebanese of all communities and for the liberation of the south, west Al-Biqa', and Rashayya from Zionism.

Israeli Collaborators To Set Up Radio in South

NC201219 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Abu Yusuf, the Israeli military governor in An-Nabatiyah, held a meeting at his headquarters in (Jiddin) Township. It was attended by lawyer Talal Fayyad and a number of collaborators with Israel. The discussions dealt with ways of confronting the national resistance of the occupation.

Well-informed sources affirmed that the conferees decided to operate a private radio to be called "The Voice of the South" and to publish a paper to be called *THE SOUTH BULLETIN*. It has been learned that Talal Fayyad will finance this radio and paper. He paid 1.5 million Lebanese pounds for this purpose.

Resistance Claims Responsibility for 2 Deaths

LD231324 Kuwait KUNA in English 1221 GMT 23 Jul 84

[By Imad Adjami]

[Text] Beirut, July 23 (KUNA) — The Lebanese National Resistance Front Monday claimed responsibility for the killing of two Israeli soldiers whose bodies were found earlier in the day on the Sidon-Jazzin road in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. The front, in a telephone report to KUNA, said the two soldiers were kidnapped by the front's elements a week ago "in retaliation for daily Israeli crimes against our people in south Lebanon." The two Israeli soldiers were shot dead by silenced guns, the front's report said.

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation authorities sealed off south Lebanon, closing crossings which link the south to the rest of the country allegedly to provide security for Israeli soldiers to take part in the parliamentary elections in Israel Monday.

Israelis Hand Over Area in South to Lahd Forces

NC231800 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The army of southern Lebanon took the Kafr Tibnit-Arnun-An-Nabatiyah triangle from the Israeli forces and set up strategic positions overlooking the area. The Israeli forces had earlier handed over the 'Alman Bridge to Lahd's army.

Christian Grouping Rejects Liaison Office Closure

NC231858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The Political Council of the Free Christian Grouping in the South issued a statement tonight rejecting the closure of the Israeli liaison office in Ad-Dubayyah. The statement said that southern citizens have had their share of the negative results of the decisions made in Beirut, which are incompatible with the situation in the south. The statement called for abrogating the [1969] Cairo Agreement, which is the cause of all ills in the south. The statement said the bombing of the Islamic Cultural Center in Al-Jlaliyah was an abortive attempt to create tension among citizens in the south.

The Free Christian Grouping in the South feels the scheme drawn up in West Beirut for Mashgharah, by the so-called Mashgharah Liberation Front, aims to harm the western Al-Biqa'. The grouping expressed satisfaction with the improved maritime service between Beirut and the south.

SSNP Elects Syrian National as Leader

NC231203 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] has for the first time since its establishment elected a Syrian national as its leader. He is lawyer 'Isam al-Mahayiri, replacing In'am Ra'd. He was elected unanimously by the 13-member SSNP Higher Council.

Informed sources pointed out that the election of Al-Mahayiri was in response to the wish of the Syrian regime. The sources revealed that Syrian support for the SSNP during the Al-Kurah battles was a basic factor in the election. The sources said that the election of Al-Mahayiri, a Syrian Muslim, as party leader for the first time, is an attempt by the Syrian regime to enable the Muslims in the party to outnumber the Christians. The sources

believe that this step would create a new phenomenon because the party members are stationed in Lebanon whereas they are banned in Syria. It is to be recalled that Al-Mahayiri himself was released from a Syrian prison in the mid-seventies.

Syrians Install 'Radar Device' in Qabb Ilyas

NC230858 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] At 1100 today Israeli planes broke the sound barrier over the Al-Biqa' area.

A report received from the area today indicates that Syrian forces have installed a radar device in Basatin at-Tallah in Qabb Ilyas and that they are watching the 'Ammiq area where the Israelis are deployed.

Marj 'Uyun Radio on Syrian-Israeli Talks

JN230709 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0600 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Despite denials in Jerusalem, officials in Geneva say that Israel and Syria have been negotiating a troop withdrawal since June. Syria has reportedly been represented by Rif'at al-Asad, while an unnamed official has represented Israel.

According to diplomatic sources in Geneva, the talks started after Syria let Israel know that it was willing to thin out its troops in Lebanon if Israel withdraws completely from the country. According to the reports, the negotiations stalled after several meetings because Israel complained that Syria was too demanding. Syria reportedly sensed that the Israeli Government wanted to reach an agreement prior to today's elections and was therefore not willing to compromise.

The conference in Geneva was supposed to have the approval of the Soviet Union, which Rif'at al-Asad obtained during his visit to Moscow at the beginning of June. Israel suggested a disengagement of forces in the Al-Biqa' valley, but insisted on maintaining its Jabal Barruq position, which has a view of Damascus. The Israelis were also reportedly demanding direct operational links with the south Lebanese army under the command of Major General Antoine Lahd and to be able to patrol south Lebanon to keep PLO forces out. Syria, on the other hand, said that Israel must accept Syrian and Lebanese Government guarantees that the south would be kept free of Palestinians.

The diplomatic sources in Geneva said that there was a tentative agreement for Israel to move back to the Az-Zahrani River and for Syria to thin out its troops in the western Al-Biqa', but the plan was not adopted. The two sides did agree on the Beirut peace plan with the understanding that when it took effect they would go back to the first stage of the withdrawal.

RFL Says Palestinians Reorganizing in Beirut

NC201348 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1330 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] A security report says that a number of pro-'Arafat Palestinian officials in Beirut and the suburbs held a meeting where they decided on a plan of action to reorganize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and regain positions taken up by the dissidents.

Chedli Klibi, Delegation Leave for Tunis

JN231451 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jul (SANA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus for Tunis today after heading the 16th session of the Coordination Committee of the Arab League's organizations and funds. In a statement at the airport before leaving Damascus, Klibi sent greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad who spares no effort to reinforce joint Arab action. He also sent greetings to the Syrian Government and people.

In his statement, Klibi pointed out that the meetings of the committee were successful and that his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and the senior Syrian officials dealt with the current issues in the Arab arena, especially the issues related to the next meetings which will be held within the framework of the Arab League.

Dr 'Abd al-Muhsin Zalzalah, assistant secretary general for economic affairs, and the Arab League General Secretariat delegation also left on the same plane.

Prime Minister Al-Kasm To Dedicate Ath-Thawrah Dam

JN240748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm will lay the foundation stone for Ath-Thawrah Dam in the As-Sanawbar area in Latakia Governorate today now that technical studies on the dam have been completed. Dr al-Kasm will be accompanied by several ministers and ranking state and party officials.

Ath-Thawrah Dam will have a capacity of 1.2 million cubic meters and will irrigate 12,000 hectares.

ATH-THAWRAH Hails Syrian-Soviet Relations

JN210822 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 21 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On the dimensions of struggle of Syrian-Soviet relations, an *ATH-THAWRAH* editorial says: As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and the USSR, we must view with great satisfaction the tremendous success of these relations and the two countries' important, multifaceted progress in all fields of cooperation — cooperation which grew, expanded, and strengthened on a firm basis of mutual understanding, respect, and interest.

Any reading of the record of the two countries' history of relations shows that these relations are considered to be ideal. They are a great experiment in ties that should be established between states and national liberation movements on the one hand, and a superpower on the other. It was obvious from the very beginning that these relations were based on joint struggle against colonialism, Zionism, and imperialism. This dimension of struggle has given these relations their historical size, and has increased their importance in all fields, particularly because they contribute to liberate battles not only in this part of the world but throughout the world.

Syrian-Soviet relations have developed and been entrenched on all levels. They have been further enhanced and strengthened through meetings between President Hafiz al-Asad and the Soviet leadership. The joint desire for promoting cooperation and friendship between the two countries was translated through meetings between party and state officials in Syria and the USSR. These led to cooperation agreements between the two parties and the two countries in the political, economic, military, and cultural fields. The treaty of friendship and cooperation which the two countries signed in 1980 crowned these relations and was a qualitative step toward promoting them. This treaty expanded the circle of cooperation to inlude all aspects of life.

Several pieces of evidence emerged concerning the greatness of the Syrian-USSR cooperation and its positive effects not only on Syria but also on the entire Arab nation. Foremost among these were Syria's steadfastness; the strengthening of its defense capabilities, and the sincere; honest assistance that was received to build a firm, sound economic base. The monumental Euphrates Dam stands as a true symbol of the fruits of Syrian-USSR friendship and cooperation. All of this cooperation comes within the framework of joint struggle to defeat the imperialist and Zionist plots against the Arab nation and the national liberation movements in the region — plots against which Syria is standing as a bastion.

In showing great desire to expand the relations of friendship and cooperation with the USSR and the socialist bloc states, Syria is convinced that this path is the realistic one. It is the path that is able to strengthen the Arab nation liberation movements to confront the imperialist-Zionist enemy and inflict new defeats on the U.S. and Israeli anti-Arab plots.

Damascus Praises Decision To Close Israeli Office

JN201438 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Lebanon has officially closed the Israeli Liaison Office in Beirut. With this closure, Lebanon has canceled a host of bets by which Israel wanted to do away with the Lebanese people's national feelings. The Lebanese decision in this regard reflects one fact of the official Lebanese policy; namely, that there could be no bargaining over the national stand, that there could be no ties with the Zionist enemy, and that no schemes could be imposed on Lebanon under the Israeli occupation of its territory.

The decisive word, which many sides attempted to postpone or ignore, came to reaffirm that the national march in Lebanon is being entrenched through Lebanese action. Although this march enjoyed Syria's support and backing, it did not come to pass due to pressures or bargaining. This march is a natural response to the national demand that is being entrenched by the sincere Lebanese.

The Lebanese decison to close the Zionist office in Beirut not only reflects on the political aspect of the Lebanese national accord; the Arab dimension of this decision is quite considerable. Its dimension in backing the daily heroic deeds in southern Lebanon will be even greater in asserting the people's adherence to the soil of the homeland. The Arab nation, which is suffering from the misdeeds of U.S. diplomacy and the Camp David repercussions, will not give those regimes that are seeking peace with Israel any justification to defend the regime that hoisted the Israeli flag on Arab territory.

The Lebanese people, with their limited capabilities and bleeding wounds, have turned their pains into action and will power. They defined their national course removed from any submission to Israeli extortion or U.S. pressures. The Lebanese people, whose great tragedies did not prevent them from insisting on destroying the 17 May agreement or from carrying out heroic deeds in the south, assert with full determination that the plot against their affiliation to Arabism and the Arab homeland will not stop the national and pan-Arab tide on which they embarked to prove first to the Arab and then to the world that Lebanon will not be a ground for Camp David and its repercussions nor a passageway for Zionism to penetrate the Arab depth.

Consequently, the recent Lebanese decision embodies most eloquently the Arab affiliation and represents a blow not only to Israel and its ally, the United States, but also to those who pardoned the Camp David regime in Egypt under the pretext that this regime is incapable of restoring its security and Arabism unless it sought shelter under Camp David and U.S. protection. Loyalty to the homeland is consecrated by practice and by dealing with events as deemed necessary by the need to preserve the homeland and citizens. Lebanese loyalty can be taken as an example at a time when there is increasing evidence that dealing with the United States is treason, plotting against the fighting rifle is also treason, and political clowning a maneuver that kills a cause and devours the masses' aspirations and ambitions.

Those who approached Camp David and whose struggle was confined to raising victory signs, holding press conferences, and taking planes on suspect missions must learn the national lesson right from its beginning. They should take the valiant, heroic resistance in the south as an example and as an irreplaceable option of loyalty to the homeland and its freedom. This is the lession that is being entrenched on the Lebanese territory daily. This is the lesson taught by Syria's steadfastness and insistence that sacrifice should be the minimum price that a citizen should pay for his homeland.

Yesterday, the U.S. trend and the policy of the aircraft carrier were toppled. Yesterday, the decision to close the Israeli office toppled a Zionist attempt to impose a fait accompli on Lebanon. Tomorrow, the Zionist invaders will find themselves inside the circle of fire which the Lebanese people, backed by Syria and its pan-Arab stands, will start so that they alone can establish a new Lebanon removed from all calls for dialogue because only power can protect the homeland and its citizens.

TISHRIN Views Israeli Knesset Election Results

JN240837 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting in its "Behind the News" column on the Israeli elections, *TISHRIN* says: The initial results of the Zionist Knesset elections indicate that the Labor Party will win by a slight majority that may not enable it to assume power without the support of the small parties which for some time now are said to be influencing Israel's general policy. It was through these small parties that the Likud had twice managed to head the government.

It is a fact that there is no real difference between the Likud and the Alignment on general policy. If there is any difference, it is in the implementation of this policy. While the Begin government, and later the Shamir government, had pursued the policy of violence in achieving their objectives, the Alignment governments were more flexible, although they did not budge an inch from their objectives. We must not overlook the fact that most of Israel's expansionist programs between 1948 and 1973, and especially in 1956 and 1967, took place under Labor governments. This means that the Likud and the Alignment are the two faces of the same coin and that their common policy is to usurp more Arab lands and to make Israel the main instrument for implementing U.S. policy in the region.

The satisfaction expressed by certain Arab circles about the possibility of the Labor Party's return to power in Israel is astonishing and indicates that we are still reacting to developments rather than creating the developments themselves. What is important is not to welcome anyone who comes to power in Israel, but to assert our willpower and regain our territory and rights.

Let us now examine some of the statements that were made by Labor Party leader Peres. He said that he will begin talks with the Egyptian Government and that he will welcome talks with the Jordanian Government on the basis of the Camp David accords. Yet we know that there will be no return to the Camp David policy after the entire Arab nation has rejected that policy. As a matter of fact, the Arab nation is now going through the phase that precedes the actual abrogation of the Camp David accords, especially since it has been proven that the abrogation is possible. The expulsion of the U.S. Marine forces from Lebanon and the abrogation of the treasonous 17 May agreement that was drawn up and enforced by Shultz substantiate this fact. Although Peres has called for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, he still says that such a withdrawal can only take place after obtaining guarantees for the peace of Galilee. This is the same logic that is being reiterated by Shamir. Where is the difference then?

What must be pointed out, however, is the phenomenon of the small Israeli parties which Zionist officials claim are influencing general policy and are imposing on the two main blocs certain views that may not be in line with their general policies. Actually, such talk is imprecise. It is only being used by the Zionist rulers within their policy of distributing roles to justify Israeli intransi-

gence or the policy of holding on to the occupied Arab territories. This is why it is said that all the Israeli parties essentially carry out the Zionist strategy against Arab rights.

AL-BA'TH on Dangers of U.S.-Israeli Cooperation

JN221058 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 22 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation against the Soviet Union, and the Arab situation, are the topic of today's *AL-BA'TH* commentary. The newspaper has asserted that this cooperation has never been confined to the Middle East because relations between Washington and Tel Aviv cover the entire world, beginning with collecting information and ending with aggression and occupation of others' lands.

AL-BA'TH continues: Two days ago a U.S. official stated that the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation has gone beyond the borders of the Middle East — that is the Arabs — to include the Soviet Union. This statement is only an admission of a long-existing fact that is perhaps most clearly evident in various U.S. attempts to interfere in Soviet affairs under the pretext of defending Soviet Jews, in addition to the role the Zionist news media — which are widely spread in the world, particularly in the United States and the West — had played in Poland's events. There are of course, many other examples. Therefore, what was announced the day before yesterday was a mere confession of a reality the U.S. and the Zionist sides can no longer conceal.

The friendly Soviet Union, as a superpower, shoulders the responsibility for defending and helping the developing countries and the peoples that want to consolidate their independence and build their intrinsic powers. The Soviet Union realizes more than others the danger posed by this U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation, which is directed against its aims and against the interests of the Soviet people and the rest of the socialist countries.

AL-BA'TH adds: We realize well that the military strategic cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv is greater than some in our Arab homeland may imagine, because in addition to the joint military industries, Israel has its own distinguished role in any action the U.S. Administration plans to carry out in any part of this world. What Israel did and is still doing in Latin American and African countries is conclusive evidence of the danger posed by the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation. In past years the United States was satisfied to extend urgent gratuitious aid to Israel. The October liberation war was a living example of this. However, at present, and according to the U.S.-Israeli cooperation agreement and its appendices, the United States will directly participate alongside the Israeli forces in any war Israel launches against the Arabs.

The U.S. officials have recently talked a great deal about Syria's increasing power. In this regard they said that they will never allow any tip in the balance of power. All recall how joint cooperation and coordination between the U.S. and Israeli forces began. The two sides carried out joint maneuvers with all types of weapons, including exercises on medical care for U.S. soldiers at the enemy's hospitals. This suggests, among other things, that Israel and the United States will embark on a premeditated action in the region first, and this will eventually include the Soviet Union.

Concluding, *AL-BA'TH* says: What the United States and Israel are preparing to carry out is not only aimed against Syria, but also against the whole Arab nation because Syria, which is now confronting both Israel and the United States, represents the Arab nation's conscience and heart. The announcement about developing the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation is also directed against the Arab nation, especially since we and the Soviets stand in the same trench against all kinds of oppression, exploitation and neocolonialism. The Arabs, before anyone else, should have a clear stand on this issue because they are much more concerned about it than anyone else.

ATH-THAWRAH Predicts Iraqi President's Downfall

PM201551 Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Jul 84 p 2

[Muhammad Zuruf Article: "What Is Happening in Iraq?"]

[Text] The new and current popular uprising in Iraq which is threatening the entire regime is bound to escalate and get stronger because the Iraqi people are determined to end the predicament in which Saddam has placed them. Observers expect more and more uprisings in Iraq from now on prior to the long awaited popular eruption.

True, Saddam's regime has turned that fraternal country into a big prison, as an Amnesty International spokesman recently said, and the Baghdad butcher has brought in experts from the United States and Western Europe to directly supervise the torture of prisoners and political detainees, but it is also true that the Iraqi regime has completely failed to destroy the Iraqi people's will to resist and stand fast in all Iraq.

If the popular uprisings are at present concentrated in northern Iraq, one should look at the rest of the country. Reports from Baghdad confirm that the capital's inhabitants are beginning to move at all levels to rid themselves of the tyrant, save Iraq and ward off the dangers threatening it. International news agencies speak of signs of more than one uprising in the Basra area. As a result, Saddam's authorities have launched a large scale arrest campaign among opposition circles. Naturally, all this is a prelude to popular revolution in Iraq. It will not be long before executioner Saddam realizes that the sand castles he has built on the ruins of his unjust war against the Iranian revolution cannot protect him from punishment by the people. If he has so far managed to rule Iraq and its people with steel and fire he will soon be unable to continue this game because when people rise against those who stand in the way of their progress and development they turn into a deluge which sweeps everything with it. This applies in particular to the fraternal Iraqi people. Now that they have seized the initiative they are bound to throw the tyrant Saddam into the darkest corners of the black future awaiting him. Even the Iraqi regime's imperialist friends have reached the same conclusion. There is almost unanimous regional agreement that Saddam's downfall is the only way to end the Gulf war

because he is responsible for starting the war and for continuing and escalating it. Will the Iraqi people settle this matter and spare their nation great burdens or will matters take a different course which will also lead to the same result?

AL-BA'TH on Lebanese Security Plan Execution

JN230948 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 23 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the Lebanese security situation *AL-BA'TH* says: There were many obstacles and transgressions which accompanied the implementation of the security plan, and Israel, directly or through its agents, has continued to reiterate its determination to obstruct the plan because the success of this plan could inflict on it a defeat as important as the defeat it sustained by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and could wipe out all its schemes aiming at transforming Lebanon into a protectorate belonging to it and a bridgehead of further expansion and aggressions. However, the successes scored by the national unity government with direct, sincere, and unlimited Syrian support is vivid proof that the conditions for proceeding forward along the march of salvation are available.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Any success scored in this field will be a success for Lebanon and the Arabs and a defeat for Israel, its agents, and its schemes. Therefore, speeding up the entrenchment of the security plan in Beirut and generalizing it to the other areas later, means the acceleration of the salvation process. This will enable all the Lebanese efforts to unite with Syria's unconditional support to confront the Zionist occupation and definitely end it whether on the level of southern Lebanon or on the level of severing any Israeli hand which seeks to tamper with Lebanon's security and existence.

Commentary on Egyptian Revolution Anniversary

JN231600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Today is the anniversary of Egypt's 23 July Revolution. This revolution eliminated the monarchic, feudal system that was linked to imperialism, and opened the door for revolutionary, popular, and liberating developments in the entire homeland. It also represents a milestone in the progress of the Arab liberation movement and the recession of the imperialist system in the Arab homeland.

The 23 July Revolution was characterized by its hostility to imperialism and Zionism. It is pan-Arab, unionist, and progressive in its social impiications. During its recent development, this revolution attracted not only the Egyptian masses' attention and support, but also the attention and support of the masses in the Arab homeland aa well as the sympathy and solidarity of the national liberation movements and the forces of peace and socialism in the word.

Syria, which had achieved national independence, evicted the foreign troops from its territories, and raised the slogans of social progress, Arab unity, and pan-Arabism for the battle against the Israeli enemy. It expresses a real and enthusiastic response to the 23 July Revolution. Egyptian-Syrian cooperation then, formed a base for the Arab masses' accomplishments over a decade, which witnessed a popular revolutionary upheaval and the collapse of the reactionaries that were linked to imperialism, imperialist alliances, and imperialist and agent bases. For the first time in modern history, a real core of Arab unity was established along with a strategic, historic transformation in the course of the conflict between the Arab nation and its enemies.

Due to its nation, masses, and policies, Egypt became stronger, and the Arab nation also became stronger. Egypt under Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir became a lofty country in the world, a leader in the Arab homeland, and an example of the forces of liberation and social progress in the world. President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir became a prominent figure in the Nonaligned Movement and a leader who enjoyed respect and appreciation in the international arena.

In light of Egypt's current situation, and following his departure from the Arab fold, his subservience to U.S. imperialism, and his signing the Camp David accords, As-Sadat committed a great crime against Egypt, its masses, its place, its gains, its leading position in the Arab world, and its importance in the international arena. To restore its position in the Arab homeland, in the national liberation movement, and in the world, Egypt should completely destroy all that As-Sadat had done against Egypt and its Arab nation. It should also abandon the Camp David accords and all its consequences as well as all the forces that supported his policy and those who are trying to spread his policy in new ways. Any call for silence regarding As-Sadat and his crimes under any pretext is a call for silence over the Camp David accords and for keeping Egypt away from its natural position in the Arab homeland and from fulfilling its commitments to the 23 July Revolution's principles and policies.

Egypt's masses will never deal on equal terms with the man who led Egypt toward progress, unity, and honor; and the man who harmed Egypt, its position, its reputation, its role, and its national and pan-Arab accomplishments. Abandoning the Camp David accords is considered a national, urgent, Egyptian duty and a more urgent Arab duty. The accords as well as the forces that supported, spread, and defended them and, consequently, isolated Egypt from the Arab nation and the national liberation movements in the world, should be eliminated. Nobody can be sincere to the 23 July Revolution and, at the same time, to Anwar as-Sadat's policy and the Camp David accords.

98 Percent of Votes Counted in Knesset Election

TA240947 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0920 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Report by Avshalom Ginosar at the Central Election Committee and 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the Jerusalem radio studio — live]

[Excerpts] [Ben-'Ami] Good day to you, Avshalom Ginosar. Can you give us final results or, at least an update, on the count so far?

[Ginosar] Well, nearly 100 percent of the votes have been counted; almost all ballot boxes have been counted. Before we give figures, we should mention that these figures do not include the soldiers' votes, which will be counted this Thursday. Slight changes can be expected when the picture becomes completely clear, when the number of disqualified votes and other data are known.

The results as they have emerged so far: the Alignment — 35.4 percent, which is equivalent to about 45 seats; the Likud — 31.9 percent which is about 41 seats; the National Religious Party — 3.7 percent which is 4 seats; SHAS — 3.2 percent which is equivalent to 4 seats; Tehiya/TZOMET — 3.7 percent which is 4 seats; Agudat Yisra'el — 1.8 percent which is 2 seats; Shinuy — 2.6 percent which is 3 seats; HADASH — 3.5 percent which is 4 seats; Weizman's Yahad Movement — 2.3 percent which is 3 seats; Yiga'el Hurvitz' Ometz Movement — 1.1 percent which is 1 seat; KAKH — 1.2 percent which is 1 seat; TAMI — 1.6 percent which is 1 seat; Morasha — 2 seats; the Progressive List for Peace — 2 seats; Citizens Rights Movement — 3 seats. [percentage not given for last 3 movements]

[Ben-'Ami] Does the Central Election Committee have any idea how many seats the soldiers' votes will be translated into?

[Ginosar] No, and even if there were such an assessment we could not give it for security reasons, because this could disclose the size of IDF forces.

[Ben-'Ami] How many ballot boxes have been counted of the total number of boxes?

[Ginosar] Almost 100 percent: more than 95 percent, a little less than 100 percent, around 98 percent. Taking the percentage of voters, namely, around 78.5 percent, this means that about 2 million voters' ballots have been counted. In other words, if you want to make this calculation, the minimum quota is about 20,000 votes.

Alignment Holding Slight Lead

TA240820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Central Election Committee has counted 4,848 ballot boxes and only 9 boxes, in addition to the soldiers' ballot boxes, have not yet been counted. According to the current count, the Alignment will receive 35.4 percent of the overall vote, and the Likud 31.9 percent. As far as Knesset seats distribution is concerned, the ratio is 45 to 40, although a slight change may still take place.

The National Religious Party and Tehiya each received 3.7 percent of the overall vote. SHAS has 3.2 percent, Shinuy — 2.6 percent, Citizens Rights Movement — 2.4 percent and Yahad — 2.3 percent. The Progressive List for Peace, Agudat Yisra'el, Morasha, and TAMI received between 1.5 to a little under 2 percent. Yiga'el Hurvitz' Ometz party and Kahana's KAKH received slightly over 1 percent.

Lova Eli'av's list won 0.7 percent and the Disabled Organization gained 0.6 percent; Mordekhay Ben-Porat's movement gained 0.3 percent, as did the Independent Indian Immigrants Movement.

Turnout Nearly 80 Percent

TA240700 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 84 p 2

[ITIM Report]

[Text] The voting turnout for yesterday's 11th Knesset elections was 78.5 percent of all eligible voters, similar to that in the last elections. This emerges from the figures compiled by the Central Elections Committee after the polls closed.

In the Jewish sector the turnout was 79 percent. In the Arab sector it was 74.6 percent, compared with 69.7 percent in the last elections.

The country's kibbutzim had an 86.5 percent turnout, and in the major cities it was 75.4 percent.

Efforts To Form Coalition Government Reported

Shamir Calls for Coalition

TA240056 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2352 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Likud supporters at the Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv on 24 July — live]

[Excerpt] Friends, in this campaign we — and I — called for the establishment of a national unity government. We addressed this call to the people and all the political camps, recognizing that the difficulties we must contend with — primarily economic ones — demand that all the powers in the nation unite in establishing a government which will make it possible to carry out this mission, free ourselves of economic weakness, and make tremendous achievements in many spheres in the most quick and efficient way while forgoing — or postponing — dealing with other matters. [applause]

We addressed this call to the people and to the political camps with the knowledge that we would encounter many hurdles and difficulties, but also out of our understanding and sense of the people's desire for national unity. We thought that the political powers in the nation would submit to this desire of the people, would accept it, and would join us in establishing a national unity government.

The Alignment refused. We received an immediate negative reply, without consultations, without considering the matter — and for a well-known reason: They could not accept this not only because they prefer partisan considerations over national interests, but mainly because of the strong and growing influence of the leftist faction there.

We still adhere to the principle of a national unity government, even now when the tentative results of the election have been made public — results that nevertheless indicate the framework of the parliamentary picture that will have to serve Israel, a framework in which it will undoubtedly be difficult to establish any government other than a national unity government.

Today, we again call upon all the parties to establish a national unity government. Furthermore, we first appeal — as we have in the past — to our partners, to those camps and political movements which cooperated with us so far, and which are prepared to cooperate with us tomorrow as well. I must mention the fact that all our partners agree to join us in pursuing this course. [applause] We call upon everyone to join us in establishing a national unity government.

This evening we held preliminary talks with a number of parties that could conceivably establish the government, whether a national unity government — should we succeed in setting it up — or another government.

In general, we received positive replies. At this stage, they were primarily affirmative responses in principle. Naturally, we will have to continue the negotiations tomorrow and the day after, once all the returns are in. I am convinced that within a few days we will, God willing, be able to establish a government for Israel. [applause]

To sum up: The election campaign has ended, but we have not ended the war waged by the Likud and its partners and colleagues over its path and belief in Eretz Yisra'el, and in a State of Israel founded on social justice and a healthy economy — a society that enjoys justice, equality, and honor. We will persist in this path, and will continue to win and succeed. Thank you very much. [applause]

Alignment Against Coalition

TA241055 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1048 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] A short while ago, Alignment leaders ended discussions over the various alternatives they face with regard to forming a coalition. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports that the Alignment will apparently focus on 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad Movement. All options are open regarding this movement, it is said in the Alignment. A national unity government, it reiterates, does not appear to be a realistic possibility now.

The Likud leaders will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon in order to hear about the contacts held so far regarding the formation of a Likud-led coalition.

Overview of Various Contacts

TA240338 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0303 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that he will be able to form a government within a few days. He claimed that some parties have already made it clear in principle that they will be prepared to participate in a coalition led by the Likud. He said that as these partners constitute a Knesset majority, the Likud should form the coalition. At the same time, Yitzhaq Shamir again called on the Likud's partners in the coalition as well as the Alignment leaders to establish a national unity government in order to confront the economic problem. The prime minister noted that the people want national unity, and that the Likud had offered this in the election campaign, but the Alignment refused. He cited one of the reasons as the Alignment's preference for partisan considerations and increased pressure by its leftist faction.

Shamir expressed his assessment that if these efforts fail, he has the greatest chance of setting up a coalition. He added that he has not approached Rabbi Kahana in an offer to join a coalition led by the Likud. At the same time, he refrained from explicitly stating whether such a coalition will rely on Kahana's vote. The prime minister also abstained from stating whether a coalition led by the Likud will take action to apply Israeli law to the territories, and pointed out that his government has remained faithful to the Camp David accords.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that the Alignment emerged from the elections as the largest party, which is why he will make an effort to form a coalition. At a news conference earlier, he noted that he intends to establish a broad-based government, according to an agreed-upon plan. The Alignment will begin official contacts with the parties only after the official returns are in. At the same time, he said that unofficial contacts have already been held.

It has been reported from the National Religious Party [NRP] that both the Likud and the Alignment have already held contacts with NRP leaders in a bid to persuade them to join the coalition both parties wish to set up. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a telephone conversation with Dr Yosef Burg, and the two agreed to meet today. One of the Alignment leaders contacted the NRP on behalf of that party, but no meetings have yet been set.

Earlier it was reported that Dr Yosef Burg suggested setting up a technical bloc comprising the religious parties, and that Morasha leader Rabbi Hayim Druckman expressed his agreement. Agudat Yisra'el's Rabbi Avraham Shapira said that the establishment of such a bloc requires the approval of the Council of Torah Sages. However, his party will seek to establish a bloc with SHAS.

It has been reported from SHAS that both Shim'on Peres and David Levi have approached it in order to set up a get-acquainted meeting. Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, who heads the list, told our correspondent that the options of joining any coalition are open and subject to the decision of the movement's Council of Sages.

He added that in principle, his party endorses the proposal to establish a religious bloc, but even here there is need for the approval of the movement's Council of Sages, although it is not yet clear when that council will meet.

Morasha for Likud Coalition

TA240659 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] The Morasha Party (Matzad-Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el), which was expected to win two Knesset seats by Hanokh Smith last night, said it favoured joining a coalition of parties faithful to the idea of a Greater Israel — the Likud, Tehiya and the NRP.

Speaking to *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night, party spokesman Yitzhaq Hildesheimer said that while Morasha "does not exactly identify" with KAKH, it does not rule out the possibility of joining a coalition with the party.

Morasha, he said, also does not rule out joining a coalition with the Alignment, but said his party's doing so would depend on the Alignment's receptiveness to its views on Greater Israel and religious issues.

He said the chances of establishing a national unity government do not appear very good and that therefore his party has not yet formed a position in this regard.

MAPAM Completely Opposed

TA240701 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Soon after the Smith prediction was broadcast, MAPAM Secretary-General Victor Shemtov issued a statement stressing MAPAM's complete opposition to the idea of a national unity government, even with Alignment leader Shim'on Peres at its head.

If TV projections prove correct, MAPAM would like Peres to try to form a narrow coalition, he stated.

Weizman: Unity Only Way Out

TA240658 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] YAHAD leader 'Ezer Weizman late last night recommended setting up a national unity government, even if his two-man party is not included in such a coalition.

Addressing his party faithful following long consultations by the YAHAD leadership, Weizman said that he will not support either of the two major blocs in their bid to form a coalition, since the nation and the country have to unite now. "We are facing crucial issues of war and peace and have to resolve our grave economic situation," he said, stressing that a national unity government was the only way out. He conceded that his bid to form a meaningful new party had not met with success.

Shuns Extremists

TA241409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman's movement, Yahad, decided this afternoon to support a national unity government. If such a government cannot be formed, Yahad will support an alternative government provided it is stable and independent of the extremist parties on either the right or the left. Our correspondent Tzahi Noga reports that 'Ezer Weizman was approached by the leaders of some parties, who expressed their desire to confer with him, in the course of the Yahad secretariat session. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav says that the Alignment is currently concerting all its efforts to reach an understanding with 'Ezer Weizman and his faction to prevent the establishment of a Likud government.

Kahana on Election Victory

TA240456 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Perhaps the most controversial member in the new Knesset will be Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, who won a seat in the Parliament on his fourth try. Kahana's KAKH movement believes in expelling the Arabs from the land of Israel; he says he will present that idea on his first speech from the floor. When the election results came, Rabbi Kahana took some of his followers on a victory march down the main street of Jerusalem to the Western Wall in the Old City. Shim'on Feinberg reports:

[Begin recording] [Feinberg] Rabbi Kahana calls it savoring the fruits of a 12-year fight. The Central Election Committee voted to ban his list. The High Court of Justice overruled that decision and now Kahana is preparing to take his seat among the country's parliamentarians. His people even hope for a second seat, banking on the soldiers' votes not yet in. Kahana blames the Central Election Committee for editing his televised campaign ads, and has harsh words for the media.

[Kahana] That was a deliberate effort on the part of the newspapers here to show polls in which KAKH simply did not exist. Every dirty trick that the dirty news media of this country knows was used against us, and it did work...[voice interrupts shouting "Long live Kahana"]. There must be 100,000 people in this country who did not vote KAKH only because they were afraid that the polls showed we have no chance.

[Feinberg] On those TV ads, he asked for a mandate saying: Give me the power and I will take care of them. How does he exactly intend to carry out this threat in the Knesset?

[Kahana] I am going to — in my first speech — raise the issue of throwing out the Arabs, so that it will become on the next day a national debate. Every newspaper in the world will have to report that a wild melee broke out in the Knesset as I presented a bill to move the Arabs out of here and questioned...

[Feinberg, interrupting] Out to where, sir?

[Kahana] I couldn't care less.

[Feinberg] Kahana was accompanied by about 40 people, mostly young, Americans and Israelis, religious and nonreligious, perhaps the sign of the times.

[Kahana] Until the next elections, and we are going to have 10 seats, and we will drive this country crazy. We will make this country Jewish again. [end recording]

Conditions for Joining Likud
TA240926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Our correspondent says it appears a Likud government will need the support of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana. In a news conference this morning, he said that he would support a Likud government if the members of the Jewish terrorist organization are released and the Law of Return is amended in connection with religious conversion according to Torah laws. Kahana also said that if there is a conflict between the Jewish state which he desires and between a democracy, then democracy must be abrogated.

Liberals, NRP for Unity Rule
TA240837 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Jul 84 p 1

[Yossi Melman report]

[Excerpt] The Liberal Party does not rule out a possible national unity government led by Shim'on Peres. After the results of the television poll became known, party Chairman Yitzhaq Moda'i told DAVAR that he favors the establishment of a national unity government, preferably headed by Yitzhaq Shamir.

In response to a question by the *DAVAR* correspondent, he said that if a national unity government headed by Shim'on Peres is proposed, he would not rule out this possibility. Moda'i stressed that the key is in the hands of three parties: the National Religious Party [NRP], TAMI, and Yahad.

NRP Chairman Yosef Burg also called for a national unity government. Contrary to the stance of the Party's chairman, the Likud believes that it nevertheless will be able to form a government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir.

Egypt's Ghali on Election, Peace Process
TA240533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0520 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali reacted to the Israeli election returns a few minutes ago. Egypt, he said, is waiting for the formation of an Israeli Government so as to launch diplomatic activity for the promotion of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Dr Ghali said this in a talk with our correspondent Sha'ul Menashe who is with us in the studio.

[Menashe — live] Dr Ghali showed interest in the election returns, in the results for both the right-wing and left-wing small parties.

Dr Ghali said: In fact, I do not have a comment on the election results as such. The objective of the Egyptian Government is to be able to conduct negotiations with a newly-formed Israeli Government.

On the eve of elections, Ghali said, the Israeli Government had been unable to handle foreign affairs. A strong government is a precondition for the promotion of negotiations in the Middle East. The issue of election returns and the formation of a government per se are an internal Israeli affair and under no circumstances will we intervene.

I asked Ghali about yesterday's report that Egypt will launch a new peace initiative after the elections. Hiw answer: This will be diplomatic activity to promote overall peace in the Middle East,but it depends on the formation of a strong Israeli Government, for which Egypt is now waiting.

I asked Dr Ghali about Egypt's commitment to the Camp David accords and the peace agreement.

His answer: Egypt is committed to the peace treaty with Israel dating back to 13 March 1979.

Golan Druze Voting in Election Reported
TA240637 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 84 p 3

[Menahem Horowitz report]

[Text] Qiryat Shemona — Most of the 220 Druze residents of the Golan Heights who hold Israeli citizenship voted for the first time yesterday in Israeli general elections.

Because of threats against them in their village, they cast their ballots at two Jewish settlements, Elrom and Neve Ativ.

Golan Druze elders had lately threatened that those who voted would be ostracized.

On Sunday night, a Syrian flag was raised over a schoolhouse in Majdal Shams and a petrol bomb was thrown at the local council building, but no one was hurt.

Gaza Inhabitants Disappointed With Results
TA241218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Disappointment with the election results was expressed in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Moshe Halevi reports that many people, both pro-Jordanian and pro-PLO supporters, hoped that the Alignment would win and the road for negotiations with Jordan on the Palestinians' future would be opened.

Al-'Awwali Bridges Reopened Following Elections
TA240603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0553 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The IDF has reopened the crossings over the Al-'Awwali River. Traffic between southern and northern Lebanon is resuming this morning, following the closure of the Al-'Awwali bridges for security reasons connected with election day.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that there is a long line of trucks already in front of the (Batr) ash-Shuf crossing east of Jazzin.

Lebanese Guards Withdrawn From Ad-Dubayyah
TA241119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] It was reported a short while ago from Beirut that all Lebanese Army soldiers guarding the Israeli representation in Ad-Dubayyah left the building this morning, thus leaving it unprotected.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that this was announced a short time ago by Colonel Fawzi abu Farhat, commander of the Lebanese liaison unit with the Israeli representation.

Twenty Lebanese soldiers guarded the representation's building and four officers guarded the liaison unit. This morning they packed their personal belongings and left the representation's building.

Evacuation May Start 'Shortly'
TA241348 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Israeli representation in Ad-Dubayyah will probably be evacuated shortly, in light of the removal of the Lebanese Army guard around it. The Cabinet authorized the prime minister and the defense minister to decide about the date.

IDF Turns Over Posts to South Lebanese Army
TA241127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] This morning the army of southern Lebanon took over some new posts in the Al-'Awwali area east of Sidon, replacing IDF units. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the army of southern Lebanon this week also extended its deployment in the area of An-Nabatiyah. Since the beginning of February, units of the army of southern Lebanon have been deployed in the areas of Hasbayya, Jazzin, An-Nabatiyah, and Sidon.

ALGERIA

Foreign Minister Sent to Mauritania With Message

LD232332 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has sent the foreign minister to Mauritania on a mission relating to the latest developments in the region. The head of state received Mr Taleb Ibrahimi prior to his departure for Nouakchott and gave him a message for President Ould Haydala. The Algerian foreign minister has arrived in Mauritania, where he is to be received at any moment in audience.

Of course, the situation created by the Rabat regime's threats against Mauritania, which Hassan II is accusing of being a base for Saharan fighters, is behind all this. President Haydala categorically denied this yesterday, repeating that his country has pulled out of the war for good.

The Rabat regime (?is using the pretext of) the Dakhla attack by the Saharan People's Liberation Army to express its plan to expand the conflict. The Saharan attack on Dakhla is part of a series of military operations launched 5 weeks ago on all Western Sahara fronts. According to Polisario leaders, this offensive is a direct response to Morocco's military escalation and to its refusal to negotiate peace.

Today a Saharan communique announced new operations. On 21 July there was an engagement at [word indistinct] between Zag and [word indistinct]; 18 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 8 others injured. A large quantity of war material was destroyed. Saharan military communiques have recently been issued almost as rapidly as operations on the grounds. It is clear that attacks are being made throughout the occupied territory of the Western Sahara, which [words indistinct] shows that the Saharan fighters are in control on the ground, and that the [word indistinct] strategy of Rabat is not as effective as it was believed.

Saudi Interior Minister Arrives in Algiers

LD231817 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1555 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Algiers, 23 Jul (SPA) — This evening Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz arrived in Algiers on an official visit that will go on for several days. On arrival his royal highness was welcomed at the airport by Algerian Interior Minister M'Hamed Hadj Yala; deputy director of national security (Bouzid); the Kingdom's ambassador to Algeria Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, and a number of Algerian officials.

Saudi Minister Arrival Statement

LD232235 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1555 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Algiers, 23 Jul (SPA) — Following the arrival of Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in Algiers, his royal highness expressed his pleasure at visiting Algeria and said in a statement to the media: I bring to this people, president and members of his government greetings and appreciation from His Majesty the king and the people of the Kingdom in view of the bonds of Islamic fraternity and Arabism linking both peoples. His royal highness expressed his profound pleasure at being on Algerian soil among his brothers — the sons of the Algerian people. His royal highness thanked Algerian Interior Minister Mohamed Yala for the invitation to his royal highness to visit Algeria. In conclusion his royal highness said: We are happy for this opportunity which allowed us to be here in an Arab and Islamic land which has an esteemed place in our hearts.

The Algerian interior minister expressed his pleasure at the visit of Prince Nayif to Algeria, which he said that would lead to positive and tangible results for the consolidation of relations between the two countries. He added that this visit will provide an opportunity for consultation in the spheres of experience of both countries in various fields, particularly in the field of development.

LIBYA

Jallud Marks Egyptian Revolution Anniversary

LD241124 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1908 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Editorial Report] Voice of Greater Arab Homeland at 1908 GMT on 23 July broadcasts a 15-Minute speech by Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud at the Jamahir Theater in Tripoli during a festive meeting to mark the anniversary of Egypt's 23 July Revolution.

In his address, Major Jallud said: "Free brothers! Revolutionary brothers!

"To live on the heritage of 'Abd an-Nasir and on the glories of 'Abd an-Nasir or to attempt to gain glory at the expense of the heritage of 'Abd an-Nasir is contrary to revolutionary ethics [applause]. Brothers, what is left of the 23 July Revolution? The attempt to create an opportunity and material for a speech to sing the glory of 'Abd an-Nasir and the 23 July Revolution is an escapade. What has remained of the 23 July Revolution when we see the Zionists touring Cairo and Asyut and placing their feet on the tomb of 'Abd an-Nasir? What has remained of the 23 July Revolution? What has remained of Arab dignity? We see the Zionists, out of their desire to annoy the Arab nation, celebrating in an Arab capital the anniversary of the occupation of Palestine. Brothers, what has remained of the peasants of Egypt? The workers of Egypt? The students of Egypt? The soldiers of Egypt? What has remained for them when Egypt has abandoned its dignity?"

Major Jallud added: "The real celebration of the 23 July Revolution should be in carrying a gun and fighting from one quarter to another, from one street to another, from one school to another, from one college to another, and from one garrison to another to regain dignity and honor [applause]."

After paying tribute, Jallud recalled that 'Abd an-Nasir had once addressed Al-Qadhdhafi as being the trustee of Arab nationalism. This placed responsibilities on our shoulders, Jallud added.

In the Jamahiriyah, he said, we have chosen to celebrate the anniversary by holding our gun tightly in our hands and by training the people on the use of weapons as well as by reaffirming the people's authority. To celebrate the anniversary in a traditional way is an insult to 'Abd an-Nasir, Jallud added. 'Abd an-Nasir was history and a historic epic. To celebrate the anniversary we should be faithful to the principles of 'Abd an-Nasir.

Major Jallud said: "Despite the fact that the people of Lebanon are torn by civil war and sectarian fighting, they did not join the Camp David agreement as the second Arab state. Instead, they put an end to the series of unilateral agreements which the enemy wants to impose on us, one Arab country after another." However, Jallud added, the Egyptian people joined Camp David. Instead of being our leader, Egypt became sword drawn on our heads. Egypt, with all its capabilities, placed itself on our enemy's side, like Iraq. To celebrate the anniversary, we should resolve to carry a gun to defeat the forces of surrender, exploitation and dictatorship, as well as capitalism and reaction, against which 'Abd an-Nasir fought and in return for which they waged battles against him and against the Pan-Arab line he pursued.

Major Jallud added: "The victory of the Lebanese masses is a victory for the Libyan people. When women, children and old people struggle, it is a beautiful picture. (?We saw) unarmed people, without a government, struggling. The unarmed Lebanese masses, especially the Shi'ite and [word indistinct] masses, defeated the [word indistinct] and fascist forces. The victory was a victory for the Libyan masses. The victory of the Lebanese masses is the beginning of the emergence of the [words indistinct]." The real celebration of this anniversary, Jallud noted, is the celebration of the Lebanese national resistance. "The heroes who drive the booby-trapped vehicles — the vehicles loaded with dynamite and explosives — and who storm the NATO command garrisons and the commands of the Zionist forces have every right to be proud of celebrating 'Abd an-Nasir because they are faithful to him"

Major Jallud later said: "Free brothers, we were surprised to see the Egyptian national movement entering the elections battles. We were surprised. They said that they would achieve victories through the elections. But what was the result? We said that this futile method and this traditional way of thinking cannot restore to the Egyptian people their dignity. Reagan and the Western circles sent cables to Husni Mubarak congratulating him on the sound democracy in Egypt. Egypt has become an example of democracy! Whose democracy? Is it the democracy of feudalism and the bourgeoisie forces and the dead party forces against which 'Abd an-Nasir rebelled? What democracy is this? The mere fact that Reagan has congratulated Mubarak on the democracy in Egypt should make the people of Egypt and their living and national forces rebel. This is their democracy! "We in the Jamahiriyah, Major Jallud added, were not taken by surprises. We knew the inevitable result in advance. This should be a lesson to the Egyptian national movement and to the Nasirite forces.

Regarding next year's celebration of the 23 July Revolution, Major Jallud said: "We should celebrate the anniversary by training people on the use of bombs, explosives, the RPG, guns, and machineguns. We should fight from street to street, from one quarter to another, and from school to school. Forward and the revolutionary struggle continues!"

Briefs

UAE Official Arrives — Hamd Ahmad Hamid at-Ta'ir, UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. During the visit At-Ta'ir will attend meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Bank for Investments and Foreign Trade, which begin in Tripoli on Monday. [Text] [Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jul 84 NC]

MAURITANIA

Algerian Minister Brings Message From Benjedid

AB231655 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, arrived early this afternoon in Nouakchott. He was welcomed by Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi is bringing a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state.

Haydala Receives Ibrahimi, Message

LD232338 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, today received Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian foreign minister, who delivered a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting took place in the presence of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The Algerian minister left Nouakchott this evening.

MOROCCO

L'OPINION Views Hassan Message to Haydala

LD231541 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Rabat, July 23 (MAP) — Commenting on the dispatches of the Algerian press agency APS on the message addressed by King Hassan II of Morocco to President Haydala of Mautitania following the attacks that were perpetrated on July 13 and 19 against the Moroccan Saharan province of Dakhla, *L'OPINION*, daily organ in French of the Istiqlal Party (Social Democrat), outlined the frivolous aspect of the arguments advanced by the Algerian agency and listed the reasons explaining that the Moroccan warning to the Mauritanian regime has nothing of "a manoeuver destined to deceive the public opinion" as claimed by the APS. The APS conclusion, the daily wrote, is erroneous for

several reasons: Morocco has addressed the warning to Nouakchott only after the second attack of July 19. Morocco kept silent after the first attack in the hope that Mauritanian authorities would shoulder their responsibility and put an end to the mercenaries' deeds.

Besides, the daily went on, Morocco could have exercised her right of pursuit after the first attack, and still better she could have prevented these attacks by attacking the mercenaries' bases prior to that date.

Morocco could have exercised her right of pursuit after the second attack. She has the means and the capacity to do so. This the Mauritanian officials do not ignore.

L'OPINION added before recalling that prior to these attacks, the Moroccan press has many times drawn the attention of Nouakchott and the international opinion to the existence of mercenaries' bases on the Mauritanian territory.

The Mauritanian opposition has confirmed this news and the arrests operated in Nouakchott against those who dared denounce "the Polisarization" of the Mauritanian regime prove the existence of deep ties between some Mauritanian leaders and the mercenaries of the "Polisario" (an Algerian-backed guerrilla movement claiming sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara), *L'OPINION* wrote.

Despite all this, the daily went on, Morocco was eager not to worsen the situation. Through the publishing of the royal message, Morocco wanted to urge Nouakchott to assume her responsibilities and inform the international opinion. Therefore, there is no question of manoeuvers as claimed by the Algerian news agency.

Everybody knows that Morocco would have acted first and given the necessary explanations afterwards. But being confident in her force and aware of her duties, Morocco does not act irresponsibly prefering not to resort to force until the last limit, and hoping that reason will finally triumph.

However, to give proof of these qualities does not at all mean that Morocco would remain passive at the violation of her territory. And this, Nouakchott must well understand, the daily concluded.

King Receives Reply Message From Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy

LD222338 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] The envoy of the Libyan leader, Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy, left Morocco today at the end of his visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. This was the second mission to His Majesty within two weeks entrusted to the envoy by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Before leaving Morocco the Libyan envoy said that during this visit he handed the king a reply from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy said his visit to Morocco falls within the framework of consultations which the two leaders conduct to exchange views on the present situation in the Arab homeland and on what pertains to the development of the Arab action. This would be for the purpose of producing a joint action which could unite all the Arab nation for the realization of its aims of liberation and unity and it could emerge from the present situation it is (?experiencing).

SUDAN

Numayri Receives Romanian President's Message

JN231612 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on bilateral relations, ways to bolster these relations, and regional and international issues of common interest. Lieutenant General Dr Stanculescu, Romanian deputy minister of national defense and President Ceausescu's personal envoy, delivered the message when the president of the republic received him this morning. 'Umar Muhammad Yasin, minister of state at the presidential office for political affairs, attended the meeting.

In a press statement, 'Umar Muhammad Yasin said that President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has asserted to the Romanian envoy his acceptance of President Ceausescu's invitation to attend Romania's celebrations on national day. The president will head Sudan's delegation to these celebrations in August.

Defense Officials Hold Talks

JN231609 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (SUNA) — Lieutenant General Yusuf Hasan al-Haj, minister of state at the Defense Ministry, today received Lieutenant General Dr Stanculescu, Romanian deputy minister of national defense, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means of bolstering these relations.

SSU Official Greets Egypt on National Day

JN231208 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (SUNA) — Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman Muhammad, acting first secretary of the SSU [Sudanese Socialist Union] Central Command, has issued a statement on the 32d anniversary of the 23 July Revolution in which he affirmed the Sudanese people's participation in celebrating the revolution anniversary with the brother Egyptian people — a revolution marking the Egyptian people's liberation and victory over injustice, oppression, and colonialist and imperialist hegemony.

The statement greeted the sons of the Nile Valley on this great historical occasion and affirmed that the victory of the 23 July Revolution has always been a symbol of struggle and liberation. It also affirmed that this revolution's successive leaderships had tolerated the burden of struggle in the Arab, African, and Asian homeland. Throughout the past years this revolution has been a lighthouse for revolutionary peoples and a supporter of all liberation movements throughout the world.

Deputy Commander on Security in Upper Nile

JN241141 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jul (SUNA) — General 'Abd ar-Rahman Siwar adh-Dhahab, deputy commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces [PAF], has said that the PAF are in full control of the situation in the eastern part of the Upper Nile region, which had witnessed rebel action across the joint borders with Ethiopia. In a statement to SUNA today, Siwar adh-Dhahab added that security is stable in the Central, Upper Nile, and the other southern regions.

Regarding security at the oil prospecting sites in southwest Sudan, he said that the officials of the Chevron Oil Company of Sudan have told him that they feel safe as a result of the PAF's protection of the oil prospecting sites. Siwar adh-Dhahab said that the commanders of the units and soldiers at the prospecting sites are pleased to carry out their duties of protecting these cites.

On his visit to the oil prospection sites in the Al-Muglad area, Siwar adh-Dhahab said that this visit is within the framework of his normal inspection of the field visits to the PAF units which work for the protection of oil installations.

It is worth noting that Gen Siwar adh-Dhahab visited the Al-Muglad area yesterday as part of a delegation comprising Sharif at-Tuhami, minister of energy and mining; (Gary Cannel), director of the Chevron Oil Company of Sudan; and a number of senior officials at the Ministry of Energy and Mining and the General Oil Corporation.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Reports Attacks Against Moroccan Forces

LD230846 Paris International Service in French 0800 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Three new Saharan attacks against the Moroccan troops have been claimed by the Polisario Front. They are reported to have taken place on Friday and Saturday [20-21 July] in the north east of Western Sahara. The toll is 23 deal among the Moroccan soldier and several injured, the Saharan Ministry of Information says.

ETHIOPIA

Defense Minister Meets With USSR's Petrov, Delegation

EA221543 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Comrade Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, PMAC Standing Committee member, defense minister, and COPWE Executive Committee member, has held a second round of talks with Comrade Marshal Vasiliy Ivanovich Petrov, CPSU Central Committee member, member of the Supreme Soviet, deputy defense minister, and hero of the USSR.

Present during the talks held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Defense were: Comrade Brigadier General Gebreyes Wolde Hana, head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Political Department and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Major General Haile Giorgis Habte Mariam, chief of staff and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Brigadier General Abebe Wolde Mariam, deputy minister of finance and organization in the ministry of national defense; force commanders; heads of departments of the Ministry of National Defense; and members of the delegation led by Comrade Marshal Petrov.

Foreign Minister, UK's Rifkind Hold Talks

EA231841 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Comrade Goshu Wolde, the Ethiopian foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member, today held talks on bilateral relations with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, British minister of state for foreign affairs. The talks centred on ways of strengthening the existing relations between the two countries. Comrade Goshu also exchanged views with Mr Rifkind on current situations prevailing in the surrounding countries.

Mr Rifkind arrived in Addis Ababa yesterday to continue his visit to East African countries. He said on arrival that Britain does not support any expansionist policy being pursued in any part of the world. He said that invading the territory of another state is absolutely illegal. Mr Rifkind emphasized that Britain has never provided, nor will provide in the future, support to those who oppose the principles of the OAU Charter.

SOMALIA

Kenyan President on Official Visit

Moi Arrival Speech

EA231907 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1250 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Speech by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi on arrival in Somalia at Mogadishu Airport on 23 July — live]

[Excerpt] This is an auspicious occasion, since it is the first time that a president of Kenya has ever visited Somalia. Just over 3 years ago I had the great pleasure of sitting down with the president of Somalia and discussing at length in Nairobi relations between our two countries. At the end of the talks we announced [our] commitment to continue to promote better understanding and collaboration in the interest and welfare of the people of our two nations. This visit takes place within this context. I am looking forward to exchanging ideas with my brother the president and to consolidating even further relations between our two countries. In fact, the tone of the visit has already been set in the very warm and kind reception that has been accorded to me upon my arrival at Mogadishu Airport.

Talks Open

EA241034 Naibori KNA in English 0942 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Mogadishu Jul 24: President Daniel arap Moi and his Somalia counterpart, Major General Siad Barre, this morning officially opened bilateral talks between their two countries. The two heads of state laid the agenda for the working committee at the People's Hall.

In his opening address, President Barre stressed to the working committee the need to identify the aspirations of the peoples of Kenya and Somalia. He confirmed that there were no fundamental problems between Kenya and Somalia. Those sensitive problems should be eliminated. President Moi talked on a wide spectrum touching on interntional issues, the relations between Kenya and Somalia and Africa in general.

He observed we in Africa have experienced many problems brought about by superpowers. President Moi said that in tackling those problems, Africa should spare no room for foreign ideologies. President Moi noted that the superpowers were creating problems in Africa purposely so that they could be recalled to sort out the mess. He, however, pointed out that this business was being done by the superpowers.

The Kenyan head of state called for plans to eradicate famine, promotion of farming and full utilisation of natural wealth. Stressing the importance of Africa promoting its own technology, President Moi said Africa should not be divided into progressives and moderates.

President Moi, who noted with appreciation that relations between Somalia and Kenya had improved tremendously since 1981, expressed the hope that the trend would be extended to the other neighbouring countries. After opening the talks between the Kenya and Somalia delegations, the two president went to villa Somalia where they held exclusive talks.

Siad Barre Dinner Speech

EA241051 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The president of the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic], Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, hosted a dinner party at Villa Somalia last night in honor of the president of the Republic of Kenya, Mr Daniel arap Moi, and his delegation. The dinner party was also attended by the first and second vice presidents of the

SDR, Challe Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar and Challe Major General Hussein Kulmie Afrah, members of the Political Committee of the Central Committee, bureau chairmen, ministers, members of the party Central Committee and the National Assembly, diplomats, and other dignitaries.

After the dinner, the two presidents exchanged historic speeches on the friendly relations existing between the two countries, current international issues in the world in general, and in Africa in particular.

The president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, said in his speech that relations between the two countries had passed through difficult periods but that efforts had been made to overcome obstructions towards their improvement and strengthening. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said: I am honored to be able to welcome you and your delegation. I am pleased by the satisfactory manner in which relations between the two countries are becoming stronger, thus laying the foundation for cooperation and confidence based on the goodwill between our two nations.

The president added that the improving relationship was a basis for the efforts by the two sides in promoting the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said the visit by President Moi and his delegation to Somalia was a manifestation of the implementation of the nyayo [footsteps] philosophy of love, peace, progress, and prosperity for the people of Kenya, Africa, and the world, which President Moi was working for.

The policy to which the SDR attached great importance was to have good and fruitful relations with neighboring countries and I am pleased that we have cordial relations with most of the countries in the region, stated Challe Mohamed Siad Barre. The president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, stressed that it was of great importance to further strengthen relations between Somalia and Kenya and to implement their cooperation based on collaboration in the economic, trade, agricultural, industrial, fisheries, telecommunications, tourist, and other sectors.

Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said the SDR and the Republic of Kenya were sparing no efforts in fighting the enemies of humanity such as hunger, disease, and ignorance in an endeavor to improve the future of their nations. There is no doubt, said Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, that these endeavors will enable us to attain our aspirations.

Moi Speaks at Dinner

EA232211 Nairobi KNA in English 1310 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Nairobi, Jul 23: President Daniel arap Moi, C.G.H. [Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya, First Class], M.P. speech at the dinner to be hosted in his honour by H.E. President Siad Barre during the state visit to the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] on 23rd-25th July, 1984.

My Dear Brother and colleague, President Siad Barre, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

First allow me to express my profound gratitude to Your Excellency for having kindly invited me to visit your great country. Ostensibly because we share common aspirations and destiny, the challenges before us make it imperative that we focus our attention on accelerating social and economic development for the people of our region.

But such development cannot come about unless there is peace and tranquillity in our respective countries and in the region at large. The Horn of Africa, like many other regions on our continent, is experiencing severe drought conditions that could claim many lives before the situation improves. We have an obligation towards our peoples and towards the future generations to begin laying foundation for cooperation that we need in many fields.

During discussions and consultations that I have, in the recent past, held with Your Excellency, and also with Brother and Colleague Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam on the political problems in the region, you have both expressed a genuine desire to embark on a process of improving relations leading to durable peace and security in the region.

The desire for peace and development in the Horn of Africa is paramount, and I see no ground whatsoever for assuming that there exists conflict or contradiction so great as to prevent us from formulating a functional peace plan for the region. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Let us all forget events of the past and come together in search of lasting peace and cooperation, however delicate or difficult this may be. This is the only logical and positive way towards economic and social recovery in the Horn of Africa to our mutual cooperation, mutual benefit, mutual security and in the spirit of good neighborliness. Kenya is ready to make every contribution towards this end.

My state visit to your great country comes after a number of exchange visits by our officials. It is my earnest hope that these exchange visits will be continued, because they not only bring better understanding between our two countries but they also testify our desire for genuine friendship. It is my hope that these exchange visits will be reinforced through regular meetings by officials of our two countries along our common border with the objective of exchanging greetings and looking into issues affecting our citizens who live in those areas.

May I, Mr President, now touch on economic issues. You will recall, Your Excellency, that you and I were among the first five heads of state and government who signed the treaty for the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and South Africa (PTA) in Lusaka on the 21st December 1981. This was an important occasion for all of us within this sub-region. On the first of this month, both of us were privileged to witness in Harare the launching of the operational phase of the PTA, that is, the date for the effective application of the reduction of tariffs in the common list of selected commodities to be traded among the member states of the PTA.

The advantages of the PTA are very well known to you and your countrymen. But allow me to say that these arrangements will greatly increase trade between our two countries. Kenya is fully committed to taking all positive measures to promote trade within the sub-region. And it is my hope that businessmen in our respective countries will take appropriate measures to explore trade opportunities.

Despite the fact that the membership of the PTA has increased since December 1981, we note with regret that six potential member countries have not yet signed the PTA treaty. I appeal to the remaining countries to sign the treaty so that we can all talk with one voice as members of the sub-region.

Mr President, As you are aware, Kenya is wholly committed to the promotion of intra-Africa co-operation and solidarity in defence of Africa's interests and common heritage. Our hopes for attaining these goals presuppose a strong and united OAU. This continental organization, which is our own creation, not only has deep African roots but also reflects African aspirations. African leaders should therefore spare no efforts in maintaining and strengthening the OAU and other pan-African institutions that seek to bring African nations closer together for the benefit of our mother continent and her peoples.

Presently, the organization is facing serious problems. The enemies of Africa can only rejoice at our disunity and discord. They have everything to gain, while Africa has everything to lose in strife and disagreement. We should not and must not allow our differences to ruin the organization, which is a unique institution in the Third World. Africa must marshal all its collective wisdom, courage and political will to resolve the chronic problems plagueing our institution before it is too late.

Mr President, Africa still has [an] inescapable duty to liberate our brothers in southern Africa. More than 20 years have passed since the UN passed its famous declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, yet of all the continents of the world, it is only in Africa that we still are faced with classical colonialism in Namibia. There is no justification whatsoever for the racist regime of South Africa to continue its illegal occupation of Namibia.

The world body is duty bound to force South Africa to leave Namibia and to grant unconditional independence to the heroic and valiant people of that country in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 435. We see no reason why the people of Namibia must continue to die fighting for their God-given right.

As in Namibia, the racist regime in Pretoria continues her inhuman and unjust policy of apartheid in South Africa itself. The existence of apartheid is an affront to humanity and those responsible bear enormous responsibility to the entire human race.

Outside our continent, conflicts and wars continue to afflict untold sufferings to millions of people. The unfortunate situation in the Middle East and the current events in the Gulf region are vivid reminders of the dangers the world faces today. It is incumbent upon us to work towards a better and safer world. We must pray for God's vision and guidance in carrying out this enormous responsibility.

With these few remarks, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, may I now ask you all to rise and toast to the good health of H.E. President Siad Barre, to the friendship and co-operation between the people of Somalia and the people of Kenya.

BENIN

Kerekou Nominated for Second Term in Office

AB221429 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Cotonou, July 22 (AFP) — The Central Committee of Benin's Ruling People's Revolutionary Party has nominated President Mathieu Kerekou for a second term as head of the West African state. Under the Beninese Constitution, the nomination, decided yesterday, must be submitted for approval to the National Revolutionary Assembly which is scheduled to meet here later this week. Mr Kerekou, 51, was first elected president on February 6, 1980 after ruling the country through a National Revolutionary Council which seized power in a 1972 coup d'etat.

GHANA

GRAPHIC on TUC Support for Sandinist Revolution

AB231605 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* devotes today's editorial column to the 5th anniversary celebration of the Sandinist revolution currently taking place in Nicaragua. The paper notes that the Trade Union Congress [TUC] has expressed unflinching solidarity with the oppressed people of Central America, particularly with the people of Nicaragua, in their just struggle for social justice and meaningful democracy in a solidarity week it declared last Monday.

In launching the solidarity week, the secretary general of the TUC has asked Ghanaians not to think that what is going on in Central America is too remote to affect us. On the contrary, the aspirations of the oppressed people in the region are identical to our own. The *GRAPHIC* is of the view that the truth and importance of what the secretary general of the TUC said is reinforced by the fact that despite his heavy schedule at home, the chief cadre of the revolution, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, accepted an invitation by the Nicaraguan Government to participate in celebrations marking the 5th anniversary of the Sandinist revolution.

The paper writes: There are many other reasons why the TUC should find it fit to declare a week of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, as there are for the visit of the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council. To begin with, Ghana and nations like Nicaragua and El Salvador belong to that group of countries who are united by the solidarity of the oppressed. This unity, according to the paper, is the natural consequence of our own common desire to emancipate ourselves from mental slavery and our refusal to be cast in the role of hewers of wood and fetchers of water. Another aspect which unites Ghana and Nicaragua, the paper notes, is the fact that we are both evolving our own systems based on our own experiences and surroundings.

The paper writes: This is viewed with suspicion by a section of the world powers because this confounds their patterns which are prescribed by the political science textbooks. The paper further notes that in both Ghana and Nicaragua the recognition has dawned that the peasants whose sweat, blood, and toil have served the intellectual and built the developmental structures must now be heard. Others have been talking for them for far too long.

Rawlings Goes To Nicaragua for Anniversary

For Managua and Accra reportage on the visit to Nicaragua by Chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings to attend the events commemorating the fifth anniversary of the coming to power of the Sandinists, see the Nicaragua subsection of the Central America section of the 24 July Latin America *DAILY REPORT*.

Agricultural Cooperation Projects With Libya Reported

AB211235 Accra Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Jul 84

[Text] Ghana and Libya have agreed to expand cooperation between them in the field of agriculture. This will lead to the exchange of agriculturists between the two countries, with Libya also assisting in the provision of essential agricultural machinery.

Disclosing this to newsmen before the four-man Libyan agriculture team flew home after a week's visit to the country, a spokesman for the team, Mr (Fahima), said in addition to decisions reached Ghanaian agriculturists will receive further training in Libya. Mr (Fahima) said that the team had very useful discussions with the secretary for agriculture, Mr John Ndebugre, and his senior officials.

The team, made up of an expert each in irrigation, vegetables, and research, saw projects for hatchery, irrigation, pineapple plantation, and rabbitry in the greater Accra region. Mr (Fahima) said the visit was in accordance with the Ghana-Libya protocol agreement signed last 2 years.

Youth Group Returns From Training in Bulgaria

AB232100 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] A 14-member Ghanaian youth group has returned home from Bulgaria after a 10-month cadre training course at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Social Administration. Speaking to newsmen at the Kotoka International Airport, the leader of the group, Mr Godwin Zogblah, described the course as very useful. He said attention was given to the involvement of the youth in nation building. He said if Ghanaians would adopt the same serious approach to work as the Bulgarians do and shirk the idea that the government is a separate entity, the country's development would be faster.

Paper Criticizes Christian Council Aid Handling

AB200840 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 20 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *GHANAIAN TIMES* writes on alleged malpractices in the distribution of relief items at the Secretariat of the Christian Council. The *TIMES* says the question of probity apart, the consequences of the alleged malpractices and inefficiency at the Christian Council Secretariat over relief items have serious practical implications for the country. They must therefore be dealt with quickly. The paper points out that donor nations and organizations expect that relief items would be faithfully used for the purpose [as heard] and effectively be distributed; otherwise no organization can be expected to continue sending items only to realize that they are misused.

According to the *TIMES*, it seems that the manner in which the Christian Council has gone about the job is already producing such a reaction in some donor quarters overseas, for it is aware that a government agency in Ghana has found it impossible to recommend the council as a channel for distributing relief items when an overseas company requested the agency's recommendation to send such items to Ghana for distribution through the council. This is a very sad comment on the Christian Council.

The *TIMES* is, however, happy that the National Mobilization Committee has performed so creditably that it has won the trust of international bodies as the World Food Program, the USAID, the UNDP, and the United Nations Children's Fund. The paper expects that the call for an investigation into the allegations against the Christian Council will be taken up.

Briefs

GDR Training Plan — The GDR is to offer a number of scholarships to train Ghanaians in the GDR. This is to strengthen the cultural relations between the two countries. The new GDR ambassador to Ghana, Franz Everharz, announced this when he called on the secretary for culture and tourism, (Dr Mohamed Abdallah,) [name as heard] at his office in Accra. According to the ambassador, Ghana was one of the first countries to offer diplomatic recognition to the GDR. His country will therefore not forget Ghana in its hour of need. Dr (Abdallah) thanked the ambassador and said Ghana needs GDR expertise in the technical field. He said despite the constraints facing the country, Ghana is lucky that imperialists cannot exploit its cultural resources. [Text] [Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 20 Jul 84 AB]

IVORY COAST

Portuguese Foreign Minister Gama on Official Visit

Arrives, Comments

AB231020 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
0745 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Mr Jaime Gama, Portugal's minister of foreign affairs, arrived in our country yesterday for a 3-day official visit at the head of an eight-member delegation. According to the Portuguese foreign minister, this visit falls within the context of strengthening the existing ties between Portugal and Ivory Coast and Portugal's constant desire to open up itsef to Africa.

[Begin Gama recording] We established our diplomatic relations some years ago and now it is neccesary to work thoroughly to strengthen them. Portugal has a very extensive framework of friendship with Africa and we are now trying to pursue an African policy guided by the principles of cooperation. In this regard we attach a lot of importance to the development of the relations between our two countries.

I come here on behalf of the Portuguese Government precisely to start talks with your authorities and government in order to bring to a successful conclusion these efforts at extending our relations in the fields of diplomatic consultation, culture, and in the economic field which is of great interest to us. Lisbon is the European capital which is nearest to Africa and through our ancient traditions we have acquired a knowledge of Africa. My government believes that our opening toward Africa must also be directed toward countries like the Ivory Coast which has great influence in Africa and a great message to give with respect to the development of African policy. It can also make very valuable contributions in the field of relations between Africa and Europe. [end recording]

Mr Gama will hold several working sessions with Ivorian officials and will be received in audience tomorrow by the head of state. After the Ivory Coast, he will visit Benin and Senegal.

Meets With Ake

AB231540 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama arrived in Abidjan yesterday evening for a 3-day visit to Ivory Coast. Before being received tomorrow evening by the head of state, Mr Gama met his Ivorian counterpart, Simeon Ake, this morning. The two ministers, according to Mr Gama, held talks that are extremely useful for the future of relations between Portugal and the Ivory Coast:

[Begin Gama recording] We reviewed all aspects of our bilateral relations and the strong desire of our two governments to improve cooperation in the economic, technical, and cultural fields. We also had the opportunity to review all the aspects of the political situation in Africa, in particular the situation in the Horn of

Africa, the Western Sahara, Chad, and southern Africa, including the problems of Namibia's independence, racial discrimination, the apartheid system, as well as constructive relations between countries of the southern Africa region.

I must stress that I was impressed by the clear and purposeful analysis made by the Ivorian foreign minister. I was also impressed by the positive role played by Ivory Coast in African affairs as well as its contribution to a favorable solution to all these problems. It is for these reasons that I consider the permanent political consultations between Ivory Coast and Portugal very useful and I hope these consultations will further increase with the opening — before the end of this year — of a Portuguese Embassy in Ivory Coast. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe on PRC Determination To Return to Barracks

AB232015 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel K. Doe, says his election as president of the Interim National Assembly does not mean that he is president of Liberia. Speaking to Liberia Broadcasting System action news at the Executive Mansion this morning, the head of state emphasized the People's Redemption Council's [PRC] determination to return the country to civilian rule and also to return to the barracks.

Meanwhile, Dr Doe has appointed Mrs Pearl Brown-Bull of Montserrado County as the 58th member of the assembly. He named deputy minister of planning, Mr Paul Jeffy, to replace Mr Emmanuel Gardiner at the assembly. He made it clear that those assembly members elected and holding portfolios in government will have to give up their present jobs and serve at the capitol building where the newly created assembly will be seated. Each member of the assembly will be a salaried employee of government. The commander in chief then added that the selection of the assembly members was based on the suitability to represent the people from their areas of origin.

Asked about what will become of present advisers of the PRC, Dr Doe said they will be redeployed.

NIGERIA

Idiagbon on Dikko, Released Detainees, Inflation

AB231244 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Mohamed Okerege interview with Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, on the program "Matters of the Moment" in Lagos; date of interview not given — recorded]

[Text] [Okerege] Brigadier, you are welcomed.

[Idiagbon] Thank you.

[Okerege] Today, we are going to discuss a little bit more about the Dikko affair. We are going to talk about issues arising from the release of detained politicians. There is also the rationale for the deployment of military governors by the Supreme Military Council. Then, there is also something about the much-talked about petrochemical project.

Chief of Staff, although the Dikko affair seems to have died down a little bit, (?there is) still very much in the wind. You did not mince words in your denunciation of British attitude toward Nigeria for her apparent insensitivity to the aspirations of Nigerians when you launched the book "Nigeria and Its [British] Invaders" about 2 weeks ago. And by an act of fate, the Umaru Dikko affair occurred [words indistinct] Britain's disregard for Nigeria and what it stands for. This has set millions of Nigerians aflame with a desire to retaliate in a way to show Britain that Nigeria has become a sovereign state and not the colony that Lord Lugard amalgamated over half a century ago. It appears the government's feelings (?come first) in this (?sordid) contention. Are we going to see a redefinition of Nigeria's attitude toward Britain and, in fact, other Western powers to make them realize that intercourse should be a [words indistinct]?

[Idiagbon] First, I would like to say this in order to set the record straight: It was a mere coincidence that the Umaru Dikko affair occurred almost at the same time as the [word indistinct] of Britain's insensitivity to the aspirations of Nigerians and the launching of the book "Nigeria and Its British Invaders." The statement was only tailored to match the occasion of the launching of the book and it embodied our daily concern about Britain's lack of interest in Nigeria's well-being and upliftment. So, if we were faced with the problem before the launching of the book, we would still have [words indistinct]. One of the cardinal principles of international relations is mutual reciprocity and no country should take the other for granted. I wish to assure all Nigerians that the Federal Military Government has an abiding responsibility to protect Nigeria's national interests and we will continue to be guided by this policy in our dealings with all foreign countries. The Federal Military Government appreciates the unequivocal support given to the government by all Nigerians over the British Government's action and our reaction in the Dikko affair. I call on all Nigerians to remain vigilant and to continue to bring their undiluted support to the government.

[Okerege] [Words indistinct], I would like to (?halt) further discussions about this Dikko affair because it is a developing issue and like the chief of staff said in an earlier program, further action by the Nigerian Government will depend on the actions Great Britain might take. But there is another issue which is sensitive, but I would like to ask you about it. [Words indistinct] 31 political detainees who were released 2 weeks ago. The statement said inter alia that some of those released may be asked to serve as prosecution witnesses at the various tribunals. Does merely testifying as prosecution witness clear someone [word indistinct]? And don't you think, Sir, that an injustice is being created because detainees may not see their chance of freedom in coming forward to testify against others with whom, after all, they have been criminal bedfellows? [sentence as heard]

[Idiagbon] The impression created by your question needs to be corrected. The detainees recently released were not released merely to serve as prosecution witnesses. They were released mainly because nothing incriminating was found against them to warrant their continued detention. I must also correct the erroneous belief that all those released had been used as state witnesses. Indeed only 5 out of the 31 people originally released served as prosecution witnesses. And, of course, you know that it was only last Friday that another batch of nine detainees were released. None of them has never served as prosecution witness.

[Okerege] Well, Sir, the issue of essential commodities is very much (?tough). The prices of these commodities are very far from normal. They fluctuate erratically between two extremes of prices. For instance, 2 weeks ago I was being asked to pay 2 naira 50 kobo for a packet of sugar and about 39 naira 50 kobo for [words indistinct]. This is unfortunate considering all government efforts to flood the market with consumer goods, an exercise which is paying off in one way or the other. Where now do you think the trouble lies? Does it mean that the Nigerian consumer affair problem has defied all solutions?

[Idiagbon] Well, the present administration inherited a very high rate of price inflation early in the year owing to the scarcity of basic commodities. In response to this situation, expired import licenses were revalidated and new ones issued for the purchase of essential raw materials and finished goods. These goods started to arrive, a situation which has resulted in a moderation of the inflationary pressure.

For example, the prices of soap and detergent have shown tremendous improvement resulting from improved supply position. The price of a carton of Elephant detergent — for example the medium one — fell from about 55 naira in April to 33 naira in June. The prices of some other essential commodities have been fluctuating. [Words indistinct] some of these observed improvements, there are indications that the quantities of the essential commodities available in the market still remain inadequate in relation to demand. The government is closely monitoring the situation and more licenses are being issued for general goods to supplement the local production of essential commodities. It is hoped that with improvement in our foreign exchange situation, the supply of essential commodities and raw materials will also improve. The government is also intensifying its effort to (?eliminate) the influence of traders and middlemen by multiplying the number of retail outlets, thereby ensuring direct sale to the public. I would like to sound a note of warning to the effect that whatever efforts are being made by the government would not be completely successful if Nigerians are not disciplined, patriotic, and vigilant enough to report the hoarders of scarce products and to check illegal reexportation of essential commodities, especially foodstuffs, to neighboring countries.

[Okerege] Well, Chief of Staff, my next question is a little sensitive. I hope you will bear with me. There are many things people have been writing about which I have tried very much to keep out of this program in the belief that the logistics of the deployment of military governors is purely the Supreme Headquarters' prerogative. But our listeners are pressing and so I have no option. What actually was the rationale behind the deployment of military governors considering that some of them got deployed to their state of origin while others were not? Would it not have been better if there were uniformity? Would it also not have been better to deploy officers to states other than their own to forestall some of the human failures?

[Idiagbon] After an exhaustive deliberation, the Supreme Military Council approved the appointment of the 19 military governors of the states of the federation. As was restated by the head of state during the swearing-in ceremony at Dodan Barracks, their choice or their assignment was based mainly on their personal merit and competence in the performance of [words indistinct]. Their appointment as military governors is therefore a service question. Also, the overall interest of the Armed Forces was paramount in our consideration. [passage indistinct]

[Okerege] Now, my next question is going to be on the industrial sector. You see, we have been told that the delay that started with the indecision of the ousted administration over the siting of the second phase of the petrochemical industry has been costing the nation 10 million naira a month owing to inflation. In these days when money is scarce and the nation can ill afford such negative luxury, what is the government doing about this matter?

[Idiagbon] Even though the newspaper article your question referred to mentioned 10 million naira, I have ascertained that the right amount is about $10 million. All the financial implications of the delay in decision was brought to the notice of the present administration. No time was lost in deciding on the site. The [word indistinct] of the site is about to start and this will be followed by topographic survey. [passage indistinct] The government has (?issued instructions) for the speedy implementation of the project. The collation of the 11 different technologies for the different processes used for the petrochemical [word indistinct] complex is almost complete [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct] If for any reason whatsoever these activities cannot take off as planned, the cost of the project will obviously be affected whenever the activities eventually start. It is true that the issue is dependent on a number of factors. One of them is the effect of inflation which varies from country to country. Another is the impact of the fluctuations in currency exchange. For example, in 1979 1 naira was able to buy U.S. $1.65; today it can only buy about $(1.33). When considering a large amount of money as in the case of the petrochemical project, the difference in the exchange rate can be quite considerable and (?this can influence) a change in cost [words indistinct].

[Okerege] Now we have come to the end of this program and I would like to (?have) your last word.

[Idiagbon] You will recall that in the budget speech delivered by the head of state in May this year as well as in the subsequent press briefing by the minister of finance, the nation was told about the heavy internal and external debts inherited by the present administration from the the ousted civilian regime. The crushing weight of this debt and its servicing are by no means facilitating our efforts to revive and revitalize the shattered economy. The money is just not there. In fact, as I am talking to you now, (?projects) exist in various ministries and departments, some dating back to 1982, which could not be implemented until now owing to lack of funds. The government is making every effort. [passage indistinct] As a matter of necessity, we must now

develop a taste for what we can produce here in Nigeria. And in addition, the importation of certain nonindigenous food items for which we have developed a strong taste must have to stop, more so as some of them are not rich enough in terms of their food value to justify the continued dissipation of our meager resources on their importation. We must develop local alternatives [words indistinct]. We must patronize made-in-Nigeria goods. We cannot afford to continue to import everything, thereby keeping foreign countries and workers busy while our own factories and workshops are facing forced idleness. The probable inconvenience of readjusting our (?taste) is the necessary sacrifice which all Nigerians are being called upon to make willingly in the interest of our economic emancipation and [words indistinct].

Gambari on Return of High Commissioner to Britain

AB231756 Dakar PANA in English 1745 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, 23 July (NAN/PANA) — Nigeria's minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, said today in Lagos that the return of Nigeria's high commissioner to Britain, Maj Gen Halidu Hannaniya, depended on the outcome of the trials going on in Britain on the attempted Umaru Dikko abduction. Dr Gambari told newsmen at Lagos airport that other factors were how the British Government reacted to the high commissioner's return and his consultation with the government.

On the extradition of the fugitives, Dr Gambari said that the government would [word indistinct] all the facts against them before asking for their extradition. The minister said that this was necessary in order to forestall a situation whereby Nigeria's request would be turned down on the grounds of insufficient evidence. He said that the British Government amended the 1857 Fugitive Offender's Act in 1967 and made the conditions for extradition much harder. He added: "We are going to follow the procedure under Britain's (?new) act".

On refugees in Africa, Dr Gambari said that there were [word indistinct] refugees in Nigeria, adding that Nigeria donated 3 million naira (about four million dollars) in 1981 to aid African refugees.

Lagos Radio on UK's Options in Dikko Affair

AB201125 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 20 Jul 84

["Viewpoint" program]

[Text] The intention of the British Government not to renew the residence permit of fugitive Umaru Dikko raises a number of questions. The most important of such questions is: What will the Thatcher administration do with Dikko after the 20th of December? This question is loaded, considering the affection which the British Government has shown for the fugitive. In view of Britain's reluctance to respond to the extradition request and the ambiguity of the statement concerning Dikko's future in the United Kingdom, certain possibilities are obvious to political analysts.

First, it could be that the Thatcher administration plans to grant Umaru Dikko full citizenship instead of retaining him as a mere visitor. This option must be advantageous to Umaru Dikko and very attractive to Britain because of the huge sums of money which the Nigerian fugitive keeps in Britain. Second, the British Government might be thinking of granting political asylum to Dikko. These two possibilities would apparently provide Britain grounds for excuses to dodge the issue of extradition. A third possibility could be an intention by the Tory administration to secure a haven for Umaru Dikko outside the United Kingdom. The British foreign secretary's statement that Umaru Dikko's current resident permit will not be renewed certainly implies one of these options.

But Britain cannot succeed in fooling the world because what Nigeria has made is a straightforward request, and that is: the extradition of Umaru Dikko to defend himself against allegations of corruption in Nigeria. It is precisely this extradition request that Britain is trying to sidetrack. However, the interpretation given by the British press to the foreign secretary's statement is that Umaru Dikko will be expelled from the United Kingdom.

To many who have been studying the British attitude regarding Dikko, this looks unlikely. But assuming that this is the intention of Mrs Thatcher's government, the implication is that it might have dawned on Britain that Umaru Dikko's notoriety is almost beyond doubt. The realization should prompt Britain to comply with Nigeria's request for his repatriation to this country, where he will be in a good position to clear his name.

Gen Babangida on Indiscipline, Border Disputes

AB231400 Lagos NAN in English 1144 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Calabar: July 23, (NAN) — The chief of Army Staff, Maj Gen Ibrahim Babangida, said on Saturday in Calabar that the Army would not hesitate to deal ruthlessly with those who were damaging its image by committing acts of indiscipline.

He told newsmen that Government was making efforts to relieve victims of border disputes between Cross River and Cameroon. On the boundary dispute between the state and Imo, the chief of Army Staff said that soldiers might be posted to the area to stop further damages, if the Federal Government considered it necessary.

When asked why the Federal Government had failed to pay compensation for land acquired by the Army in the state, Maj Gen Babangida said "I will look into it as soon as I get to Lagos". He said that the Army was determined to preserve peace throughout the country.

AFP on 'Difficult' Economic Situation in North

AB231720 Paris AFP in French 1023 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Niamey, 23 Jul (AFP) — Three months after the closure of Nigeria's land borders, the economic situation remains difficult in the northern part of the country where essential commodities are still lacking, it was learned from business sources in Niger on Monday.

On the food situation, the same sources pointed out, the people are facing a shortage of sugar, soup tablets (widely used as an aromatic), and niebe (beans). However, there seems to be no shortage of millet despite the fact that its price on the open market has increased by 75 percent in 2 months in Sokoto (north-west of the country). Rice, which is very scarce, is sold at 20,000 CFA francs per 50 kilo bag; that is twice the price of rice sold in Niger markets. Niger traders are still facing a very high demand for damask (cotton material used in sewing traditional flowing gowns), printed materials, and perfumes.

Also, despite the closure of the borders and the very tight checks on the Nigerian side, smuggling has never stopped, the sources said. Smuggling tends to be on the increase as the shortages of essential commodities becomes more severe.

Furthermore, considering the high demand from Nigeria and the distrust inspired by the naira, and despite the currency exchange exercise carried out in late April, the Nigerian currency continues to be increasingly avoided, which brings about a considerable decline in the Nigerians' purchasing power. Before the currency exchange, the naira was worth about 150 CFA francs, but now its average rate is 100 CFA francs, even 95 CFA francs, while its official rate is 580 CFA francs.

In addition, the new naira is so rare in certain regions such as Maiduguri Province (north-east of the country, close to Lake Chad) that the former naira continues to be used but exchanged for only 50 CFA francs, which means a two-thirds loss in the Nigerians' purchasing power when compared to that of the period prior to the currency exchange.

It is pointed out in Niamey trading circles that the naira cannot stop falling. In various border areas the distrust inspired by the naira is so considerable — many traders are convinced that a new currency exchange exercise is impending — that it is no longer accepted in trade transactions.

The same sources contend that "discontentment in northern Nigeria is very strong," for here it is said that many Nigerians, who received only receipts in return for their old naira notes at the time of the currency change, have still not received their new notes — 3 months after the currency withdrawal exercise.

The case of a trader in the Sokoto region is cited as an example. This trader received in exchange for a sum of 5,000 old naira an authorization to draw a check for 100 new naira every month and has thus been forced out of business. Since one of the goals of the border closure exercise has been defeated — speculation against the naira was not eliminated — very few people in Niger expect a reopening of the border, despite optimistic rumors that circulate constantly in the border regions to this effect.

Defense Minister To Leave for Talks in USSR

AB231341 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of defense, Major General D.Y. Bali, will tomorrow leave Lagos for Moscow. While in the USSR, the general will hold discussions with his Russian counterpart on the servicing of equipment, spare parts, and training of personnel.

Gambian President Makes Official Visit

Arrives, Met by Buhari

AB221105 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] President Dawda Jawara of the Gambia, currently on a 3-day official visit to the country, will hold the first round of talks with the Nigerian side at Dodan Barracks today. President Jawara, who arrived in Lagos yesterday, is accompanied by his wife. They were met at Murtala Muhammad Airport by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari; the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon; and top government officials.

Last night President Jawara was the guest at a dinner held at the State House, Marina. Meanwhile Lady Njaimeh Jawara will leave Lagos today for Kano in the company of the wife of the head of state, Mrs Safinatu Buhari on a visit. They are expected back in Lagos later in the day.

A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent says a joint communique on the Nigeria-Gambia talks will be signed tomorrow before President Jawara departs for home.

Talks Underway

AB221357 Lagos NAN in English 1348 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 22 (NAN) — Nigeria and the Gambia began talks on bilateral and African issues at Dodan Barracks, Lagos, today, the second of the three-day working visit to Nigeria by the Gambian president, Sir Dawda Jawara.

Taking part on the Nigerian side are the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari; the minister of defence, Maj Gen Domkat Bali; the inspector-general of police, Mr Etim Inyangand; the minister of internal affairs, Brig Mohammed Magoro; the secretary to the Federal Military Government, Mr Gray Longe; and the minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun. The others are the managing director of the NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Company], Mr Festus Marinho, and the permanent secretaries in the Ministries of National Planning, Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs.

The Gambian officials taking part include the minister external affairs, the minister of interior and economic planning, the Gambian acting high commissioner to Nigeria and the permanent secretaries in charge of the ministries of external affairs, and interior and economic planning.

The head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, and the Gambian president attended the inauguration of the talks. A joint communique on the talks will be issued tomorrow before Sir Dawda departs for home.

Buhari on ECOWAS, Problems

AB221432 Lagos NAN in English 1421 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 22, (NAN) — The head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, said in Lagos yesterday that the time had come to ensure that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had a "more meaningful impact on the lives of millions of people of the sub-region."

Speaking at a state dinner in honor of the Gambian president, Sir Dawda Jawara, the head of state said that "as masters of our destiny, we stand to gain from acting collectively and coordinating our efforts in order to bring about the much desired political and economic changes for the good of our peoples." He said that his administration's goal remained the creation of a just, honest and disciplined society, and the laying of a solid foundation for the growth and development of a self-sufficient economy. He stated that the military intervened in Nigeria to rescue the nation from "imminent social and economic disintegration" which would have resulted from the gross economic mismanagement of the ousted civilian government. This, he said, led to a huge foreign debt, high unemployment rate and shortage of essential commodities. "Never in the history of a nation had an administration with so much goodwill and on whose shoulders lay the hopes and aspirations of millions of its people led the nation to the path of disaster," Maj Gen Buhari stated.

Turning to the African scene, the head of state said that the problems of Chad and Western Sahara which bedevilled the 19th ordinary session of the OAU were still present as the organisation celebrated its 21st anniversary. For peace to reign in Chad, he went on, the Chadian leaders "must courageously take the destiny of their nation in their hands and negotiate a peaceful settlement of the conflict." He said that it was also necessary that all foreign military operations in Chad should cease, while the OAU, with possible assistance from the UN, should ensure a speedy disengagement of troops pending the emergence of a national army in that country.

Jawara on Problems, Nigerian Ties

AB221326 Lagos NAN in English 1320 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 22 (NAN) — The Gambian president, Sir Dawda Jawara, said in Lagos yesterday that the time was ripe for African leaders to demonstrate that they could find solutions to the problems of Africa themselves. Speaking at a dinner given in his honor, he said that it was necessary for Nigeria and his country to work together toward closer relations as a prelude to finding solutions to the many problems of Africa. "The long-standing friendship which characterises the relationship between our two countries," he further said, stemmed from a common desire for peace and technological progress as well as sharing of democratic ideals. He lauded Nigeria's role in the search for peace in Chad which included the Lagos and Kano accords and peace-keeping operations there. He regretted that despite efforts by African leaders, no solution had yet been found to the Chadian issue, the Western Sahara and southern Africa.

Communique Issued

AB231900 Lagos NAN in English 1700 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] (Communique) Lagos, July 23 (NAN) — Nigeria and the Gambia have expressed satisfaction with the present level of technical and economic cooperation between them and have explored new areas of co-operation in the field of petroleum, fisheries and manpower. The officials of both countries are to meet to work out the modalities for implementing the understanding.

This was stated in Lagos today in a communique issued at the end of a three-day working visit to Nigeria by President Dawda Jawara of the Gambia. According to the communique, the head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, and President Jawara, held discussions on bilateral relations, the OAU and current world issues. The communique also said that the leaders reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the objectives of the ECOWAS and reiterated their commitment to the goals of the community. They called on members to implement relevant protocols and harmonise their economic policies and objectives along the lines of the Lagos Plan of Action, as a step toward the creation of an African common market by the year 2000.

The leaders pledged their commitment to ensure the survival of the OAU and drew attention to the urgent need to hold its 20th summit to enable the organisation to tackle urgent African problems.

On the situation in Chad, they re-affirmed the urgent need for the parties to the conflict to work toward peace and stability without external interference, and expressed support for the collective efforts aimed at effecting national reconciliation.

On Western Sahara, the leaders expressed their support for the principle of self-determination, appealed to the two parties to the conflict to respect the relevant OAU resolutions on the issue and to co-operate with the implementation committee to enable it to carry out its mandate.

On the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state expressed sympathy and understanding with regard to the recent developments between South Africa and its neighbours, and hoped that they would not adversely affect the liberation struggle. They re-affirmed their solidarity and support for the legitimate struggle of the southern African people and condemned the obnoxious and inhuman system of apartheid. They pledged their continued moral, material and diplomatic support for the liberation movements and for the Frontline States.

Both leaders called on the international community to remain steadfast in its support for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 on Namibia and rejected any linkage of the territory's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. They renewed their call for the restructuring of the international economic system and their commitment to the promotion of South-South co-operation.

On the Middle East, Maj-Gen Buhari and President Jawara re-affirmed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for their homeland.

In reviewing the events in the Gulf, they expressed deep concern over the continued escalation of the Iran-Iraq war. They expressed the hope that the two parties would co-operate with the Islamic Peace Committee under the chairmanship of President Jawara to ensure peace in the region.

Maj-Gen Buhari has accepted an invitation to visit the Gambia at a date to be arranged.

President Jawara, who arrived in Nigeria on Saturday, left for home today. He was accompanied on the tour by an 18-man entourage, including his wife, Njaimeh.

Jawara Departs
AB231343 Lagos NAN in English 1216 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Ikeja, July 23 (NAN) — The Gambian president, Alhaji Dawda Jawara and his wife today left Lagos for home after a three-day working visit to Nigeria.

The Gambian head of state, who left the Murtala Muhammad Airport on a Senegalese presidential jet at about 10:37 am, was seen off by the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari and the chief of staff, Surpeme Headquarters, Brig Tunde Idiagbon. Others at the airport include the defence minister, Maj Gen Domkat Bali; and all service chiefs; the inspector-general of police, Mr Etim Inyangand; the external affairs minister, Dr. Ibrahim Gambari; and other top government officials. During his stay in Nigeria, the Gambia leader held talks with his Nigerian counterpart, Maj Gen Buhari.

Lagos Reports Archbishop Runcie 22 July Sermon
AB231434 Lagos NAN in English 1410 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Ijebu-Ode (Ogun), July 23 (NAN) — The archbishop of Canterbury Dr Robert Runcie said in Ijebu-Ode yesterday that African churches should be traditional in their mode of worship. He said in a sermon at the cathedral church of St Saviour, ita-lajoba, Ijebu-Ode, that the mode of worship should suit the society which it served. He urged Christians to inculcate in them the tradition and inspiration of Jesus Christ, adding "you should share hospitality with members of your community".

He later paid a courtesy call on the Awujale of Ijebu-Ode, Oba Sikiru Adetona, and the asiwaju of Ijebu Christains, Chief Timothy Odutola.

Buhari Receives New Kuwaiti, Malaysian Envoys
AB201809 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] Nigeria has restated her readiness to maintain improved relations with friendly countries. This was stated today in Lagos by the head of stae, Major General Muhammadu Buhari while receiving the letters of credence of two new envoys accredited to Nigeria. The envoys are the ambassador of Kuwait, Mr Ahmad 'Abd al-Aziz al-Jasir; and the high commissioner of Malaysia, Mr J.K. Kamaruddin. The new envoys reaffirmed their countries' desire to have closer economic, cultural, and diplomatic relations with Nigeria.

Also today two outgoing ambassadors paid a farewell visit to the head of state at Dodan Barracks. They were the German ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Bernd Oldenkott, and the Irish ambassador, Mr Aidan Mulloy. Speaking at the occasion, the Irish ambassador remarked that relations between his country and Nigeria have been cordial. Replying, Gen Buhari said that he was aware of the humanitarian work of the Irish nationals in Nigeria, adding that economic relations between the two countries would continue to improve.

The German ambassador intimated that during his 5-year stay in Nigeria, relations between the two countries had reached an appreciable level of cooperation. He congratulated the Federal Government on its achievements so far in revamping the nation's economy. Responding, Gen Buhari thanked the German Government for its understanding of the Nigerian situation.

SENEGAL

Algerian FLN Delegation Arrives for Visit
AB200830 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] A delegation of the National Liberation Front of Algeria arrived in Dakar last night for a 5-day official visit. The delegation, which is led by Hanafi Tahar, member of the FLN Central Committee, was welcomed on arrival by a delegation of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party led by Moustapha Niasse, national secretary in charge of political affairs. The least that could be said about this visit by the FLN delegation is that it will strengthen and develop relations between the two countries.

[Begin Tahar recording] Our visit is a followup to the historic meeting between President Abdou Diouf and President Chadli Bendjedid in Algeria. This meeting, which gave new meaning to political and economic relations between our countries, was an important event for Africa. Our visit also follows the friendly working visit of a top-level Socialist Party delegation to Algeria [words indistinct] cooperation between the Socialist Party of Senegal and the FLN, which will be signed during our visit. [end recording]

During its stay, the delegation will be received in audience by President Abdou Diouf, secretary general of the Socialist Party. It will hold talks with an important delegation of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party and it will pay a courtesy call on President Daouda Sow, national secretary in charge of social and cultural affairs and president of the National Assembly.

Cooperation Protocol Signed
LD221242 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] Dakar, 22 July (APS) — The National Council of the Socialist Party of Senegal (governmental) was marked yesterday by the signature of a protocol of agreement for cooperation between the FLN party and the S.P. represented respectively by Mr Hanafi Tahar, CC member, member of the CC Permanent Secretariat and head of the delegation and Mr Moustapha Niasse, Politburo member in charge of the life of the Socialist Party.

The declaration made yesterday at the opening of the National Council by President Abdou Diouf who hailed the presence in the room of a delegation from the FLN party attests to the warm and hearty welcome reserved to the Algerian delegation.

"I would like to tell you that it is the first time we invite a delegation from a brother country to the sittings of our National Council. This shows the privileged links we have with this country and its people," he also said.

"Every time that we have been to Algeria we have received the heartiest of welcomes. We reassert here before you, on our behalf and on the behalf of our party, the privileged ties that link us to the FLN party of Algeria," President Abdou Diouf said.

"We admire and respect the Algerian people not only for its heroic and victorious struggle for national liberation but also for the present and future, for the gigantic and successful efforts it is exerting for national development and its exceptional availabilities in favour of international cooperation and cooperation between brother countries," President Abdou Diouf declared, adding "Algerian comrades, you are most welcome in our national council".

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Leaves For Visit to SFRY, Romania
AB230708 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The head of state, Comrade Thomas Sankara, left for Europe yesterday, specifically for Yugoslavia and Romania. The comrade chairman's visit to these two countries falls within the framework of the dynamic cooperation policy pursued by the CNR, the National Council of the Revolution.

ANGOLA

Jorge Sends Congratulations to Poland

MB240725 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Comrade Paulo Jorge, minister of foreign relations, congratulated the Polish people on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Polish national day yesterday. The message of Comrade Paulo Jorge says: I take advantage of this occasion to express our faith in the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries that safeguard the revolution and contribute to the strenghtening of world peace.

At the end of his message the minister of foreign relations sent his most heartfelt congratulations to the Polish people on the anniversary of their victory over fascism and of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Poland.

Savimbi Holds Press Conference in Jamba

On War, Coalition, RSA

MB231717 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The leader of the UNITA movement in Angola, Dr Jonas Savimbi, says that within the next 6 months the war will be taken to the streets of the capital, Luanda, but UNITA forces will concentrate only on military targets.

Speaking at a news conference at his headquarters at Jamba in southeastern Angola, Dr Savimbi said the only thing saving the MPLA and Cuban troops from defeat was the extensive air support they enjoyed.

Dr Savimbi said he would be prepared to serve under President dos Santos of the MPLA in a coalition government if it were possible to reach an understanding on certain aspects of domestic policy, and no foreign country was allowed to dictate to Angola. Assurances would also have to be given on other important matters.

On the attitude of other African states towards South Africa, Dr Savimbi said that, especially after the Nkomati Accord, they had begun to realize that South Africa did not want to destabilize its neighbors, but in fact wanted to help them.

He personally regarded dialogue as the only way of resolving differences between South Africa and the other African countries.

Dr Savimbi said it was time that these countries realized that an armed struggle against South Africa was unrealistic and futile, even if it was staged by organizations such as the ANC.

The UNITA leader said that after the solution of the Angolan problem, he would like to visit South Africa and take part in this dialogue.

On U.S. Policy

MB231747 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Dr Savimbi said that while it was praiseworthy that the United States insisted the Cubans leave Angola, the United States had no clear policy on how this should be done.

He said it would be far better if the United States spelled out how the Cuban withdrawal should take place because there were many ways in which in particular black Cubans could remain behind in Angola.

Dr Savimbi said the U.S. Government should apply enough pressure on the MPLA government to get it to the negotiating table. However, he said, the MPLA government would soon be forced to talk to UNITA because, despite the Cuban presence, it was losing the war.

Cabinda Attacks To Increase

MB231748 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1230 GMT 22 Jul 84

[Text] UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi says although the Province of Cabinda in the north of Angola is a difficult target, more attacks will be carried out there in future. Dr Savimbi was speaking at Jamba in reply to questions by a British newsman on UNITA's recent attack on the oil pipeline in Cabinda.

According to reports, the pipeline was repaired within 2 days of the attack, and production had not been affected. The repairs were carried out by the American company mining the oil.

MOZAMBIQUE

Armed Forces Pursuing 'Bandits' in Tete

MB231155 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces in Tete Province are currently carrying out a hot pursuit operation against the armed bandits who were repulsed from their camp at Mandie, Manica Province.

According to reports from Tete, the camp, which is regarded as a main base, was occupied on 15 July. As they abandoned the camp in disarray, the armed bandits left behind corpses and large quantities of weapons.

The same source stresses that the capture of the camp by the Mozambique Armed Forces was made possible by the intimate collaboration between them and the residents of the Mandie area of Guro district, Manica.

The residents of the area have already started to rebuild the local area headquarters. The Mandie area had been abandoned, reports from Tete Province added.

SOUTH AFRICA

Buthelezi Criticizes UDF for Violence at Ceremony

MB231940 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] The United Democratic Front, UDF, has come under attack from KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president, Gatsha Buthelezi. The attack follows violent incidents at Durban's Lamontville township yesterday in which three people thought to be Inkatha members died.

Eyewitnesses said about 15 intruders claiming to be Inkatha members arrived during a tombstone unveiling ceremony at the township cemetry to honor former community leader, Msizi Dube. Reports say thousands of mourners turned on the intruders and stoned three to death.

Buthelezi says in a statement that the UDF is directing all its energy attempts to villify him. He also criticized the use of funerals to, in his words, abuse me. According to his sources, Buthelezi say the mourners carried placards bearing anti-Gathsa slogans, and he says certain people took exception to this.

Labor Party Meeting Near Cape Town Disrupted

MB240720 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Another Colored Labor Party [LP] meeting has been disrupted. Police baton-charged more than 300 people opposed to the party at a Labor meeting near Cape Town last night. Jean Fairburn has the story.

[Fairburn] Several people were injured and others arrested when about 50 police stormed into the Bishop Lavis Civic Center. Officials of the Labor Party wielding sticks had tried to prevent people from opposition groups from entering the hall. About 300 residents of Bishop Lavis opposed to the LP had gathered outside and burst in as the meeting began. They were chanting and singing songs. The LP candidate for Bishop Lavis, (N.M. Isaacs), then tried to stop the meeting by telling everybody to go home, but by then a large contingent of police tried to arrest two people inside the hall and a baton charge began. Several people were beaten and trampled in the ensuing chaos. It is not yet known how many people are being held.

Student Unrest Reported in Umtata

MB231945 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] There are reports of student unrest in Umtata. Unconfirmed reports say about 500 pupils at St John's College in Umtata are staying away from classes in support of their demands for the dismissal of a principal and five other teachers. The report says security police are on the scene and the school has been cordoned off.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Discusses Restructuring of Economy

MB231256 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 JUL 84

[Text] Zambia has the capacity to restructure its economy and develop both the farming and industrial sectors because it has a viable base in natural resources.

Speaking when he officially opened the Third National Convention at Mulungushi in Lusaka today, His Excellency President Kaunda said that with the good weather and conditions and infrastructure that Zambia has it was very easy to diversify the economy. Dr Kaunda said that Zambians are aware that economic problems that beset Zambia will not be solved by anyone else but by Zambians themselves.

He therefore called on all Zambians to put in their best to achieve economic recovery. Earlier in his speech at the convention, attended by Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, Secretary of State for Defense and Security Grey Zulu, and Chairman General of the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions Frederick Chirwa, President Kaunda blamed Zambia's economic hardships on the fall of copper prices and rise of costs for imported commodities.

Dr Kaunda said therefore foreign earnings meant that Zambia had no money to subsidize essential commodities and order spare parts for equipment in industries, schools, and hospitals. The president said low industrial activity led to redundancies and an increased number of unemployed people.

Dr Kaunda also implored all companies to operate viably and make profits for the nation. He said Zambia's dependency on copper [words indistinct] the price of the product as the world market was diminishing. He said migration into urban areas has also contributed greatly to the problem of unemployment and affected the general standard of living.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Opens FAO Regional Conference

MB231723 Harare Domestic Service in Ndebele 1605 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Comrade Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe prime minister, said African countries deserve great assistance in mechanization if they are going to be able to meet their food requirements. Comrade Mugabe said this when he opened the FAO regional conference in Harare today. He said Africa is endowed with good, arable soil capable of bringing good agricultural returns. Comrade Mugabe urged FAO and UN countries to assist African countries with veterinary expertise and also agricultural training in modern methods.

Also today, Comrade Mugabe addressed a 5-day UN sponsored seminar on water and energy in Africa. He disclosed that the government is to spend $500 million on dam construction under

a 6-year plan. He urged the seminar to find new ways of providing and conserving water, especially underground sources, adding that rural progress can only be accomplished if there is enough water available.

Discusses Food Production Efforts

MB231110 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1055 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Harare, July 23, SAPA — It was alarming that food production in Africa continued to lag behind population growth, and food demands often had to be met by imports, Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said in Harare today.

Addressing the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at its African regional conference here, Mr Mugabe called for the improved harnessing of water resources and the urgent examination of techniques in irrigation. "Our methods of preparing, processing, preserving and packing local staple foods should be developed and reinforced in order to minimise food losses and ensure food security," he said.

Zimbabwe would continue to support, cooperate and participate fully in all endeavours being made to achieve food self-sufficiency at national and regional levels. The consultations on the establishment of an office in Zimbabwe and the appointment of a representative would facilitate the country's relations and communications with FAO.

Earlier, Mr Mugabe said Zimbabwe was undertaking various coordinating actions aimed at overcoming the food and agricultural problems facing not only the country itself, but the region as a whole. "We are firmly convinced that maximum benefits can accrue if regional cooperation is enhanced and hence our faith and confidence in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the Preferential Trade Area," he said.

"At the national level, our principal objectives and goals in agriculture are to achieve a maximum utilisation of the land by all farming sectors with a view to improving food and livestock production. In order to achieve self-sufficiency in food and to eradicate poverty and malnutrition, there is an urgent and greater need for all our farming communities to be dedicated, for governments and the international community more than ever before to dedicate themselves to the imperative noble cause of improving agriculture, and to fully recognise the vital importance of regional and international cooperation in combating the evils of poverty and hunger," Mr Mugabe said.

Already, useful knowledge had been gained from various studies undertaken by the FAO. One of them, relating to Africa's agricultural potential, based on agro-ecological zones, would benefit the southern region. "A major conclusion of that study indicates that Africa has enough land to achieve food self-sufficiency," Mr Mugabe added.

"To realise that goal means, however, that increased agricultural production in Africa as a whole requires bringing the productivity of land currently under cultivation. The pattern of small and scattered land holdings must, by and large, give way to a better organised consolidation of such holdings into more economic block units that can be managed on a group or cooperative basis," he said. This was fundamental to achieving meaningful improvement in agricultural production.

"There is no doubt that the measures needed to improve the general lot of our farmers require considerable assistance — both in terms of finance and manpower — not only by the countries of Africa, but also by the international community," Mr Mugabe said.

Farmer's Poor Payment Cited

MB240820 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Lesotho minister of agriculture and marketing, Mr Peete Nkuebe, has called for a review of the salary structure in the agricultural industry in order to prevent (?poaching) by other industries which are more attractive. Addressing the 13th regional conference of the FAO in Harare yesterday, Mr Peete said food security can only be guaranteed if farmers are paid more than at present. He said African governments should announce attractive preplanting prices and pay subsidies to farmers where they are deemed necessary.

Of the 41 countries participating, 9 delivered their addresses yesterday and the rest, including Zimbabwe, are expected to deliver theirs today and tomorrow. Most delegates stressed the importance of irrigation projects and closer cooperation between developed countries and Africa. Among those who delivered their addresses were delegates from Ethiopia, the Republic of Congo, and Cape Verde.